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Sands near Chit Rocks.



A
NEW GUIDE,
DESCRIPTIVE OF
The Beauties of Sidmouth,

BEING A SKETCH OF
The Situation, Salubrity, & Picturesque Scenery;

WITH
An Account of the Environs,

Within Fifteen Miles round,

INTERSPERSED WITH AUTHENTIC ANECDOTES.

—•—
BY THE LATE REV. EDMUND BUTCHER,
—•—

FOURTH EDITION.

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THE
BEAUTIES
OF
SIDMOUTH,
&c.

NAME AND SITUATION.

SIDMOUTH, anciently spelt *Sidemew*, is situated as the name imports, near the spot where the small river Sid falls into the ocean. It lies nearly in the middle of that vast bay, which is bounded on the east by the Isle of Portland, and on the west by the Start Point. The whole of this extensive curve is scalloped with a number of hollows and small bays, formed by the bold headlands of Devon and Dorset. Between the lofty and magnificent ridges which these headlands terminate, a multitude of streams, which adorn and fertilize the rich valleys through which they flow, are continually

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finding their way to the great reservoir, the sea. On the margin of one of these minor bays, bounded by Salcombe Hill on the east, and Peak Hill on the west, lies the small but rapidly-increasing subject of the present sketch.

By former writers it is only noted as an "inconsiderable fishing-town." *Leland* says, "Sidmouth is a fischar town, with a broke of that name, and a bay, six miles west of Seton;" and *Sir W. Pole* writes, "Sidmouth, where the little river Sid runneth into the sea, is a small market town, and has been famous for fishing." Several persons are still living who can attest the accuracy of such descriptions, and recollect almost the whole town consisting of thatched houses, of dark stone, with their chimnies to-towards the street, a mode of building of which several specimens yet remain, and which still predominates in most of the unmodernized towns and villages of Devonshire.

Tradition reports, that here was formerly a harbour, which has been gradually choked up by accumulating sands. *Risdon*, in his "Survey of Devon," written in the reign of Charles II. gives this account: "Since the surrender

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to the crown, Sidmouth is one of the chiefest fisher towns of this shire, and serveth much provisions into the eastern parts, wherein her principal maintenance consists. But in times past it was a port of some account, now choked with *chisel* and sands by the vicissitudes of the tides."

The rocks, which project for a considerable way from the shore, and extended almost across the whole of the Sidmouth bay, do not support this account, nor give much encouragement to a plan which has been suggested of forming an artificial harbour, by erecting a wall upon some of them, something like the "Cobb" at Lyme. Modern enterprize, however, we are witnesses, is capable of producing effects which had long been considered as dubious, at least, if not impracticable, and therefore, perhaps, some future period may witness the addition of an harbour to the growing accommodations of Sidmouth.

SIZE OF THE PARISH.

Sidmouth, in some old writings called *Sidmouth St. Nicholas*, is but a small parish, being

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only three miles in its greatest, and two miles in its shortest length, and about one mile in breadth. It is bounded by Harpford and Sidbury on the north, by Salcombe Regis on the east, by the sea on the south, and by Otterton on the west. Farm-houses appear in several different parts of the parish, chiefly belonging to the manor of Sidmouth; they are built in general of cob, a composition of clay and straw, (named probably from the Greek, Κοππος) and stone, and have roofs of thatch. The farms are small, and each divided into a number of little fields, and mostly in a good state of cultivation.

Sidmouth, it is said, was a borough-town in the 13th century: this report is certainly not contradicted by the following information, which is to be found in *Sir William Monson's Naval Tracts*: "In the fleet of eleven hundred sail, in the reign of King Edward III. the several ports were, upon forty days' warning, to furnish such a number of ships for fifteen days, upon their own charge after setting sail; and to do it every year if demanded—the rest of the time the king to pay them." That Devon was then

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one of the most considerable maritime counties, appears from its sending from

	Ships.	Mariners.
Seaton - - - - -	2	25
Sidmouth - - - - -	3	62
Exmouth - - - - -	10	193
Teignmouth - - - - -	7	120
Dartmouth - - - - -	32	283
Plymouth - - - - -	26	603
Yalme - - - - -	2	47
	82	1333
London, at that time, sent -	25	662
Bristol - - - - -	22	608
Yarmouth - - - - -	43	950

MANOR.

The manor of Sidmouth was demised by indenture, under the seal of the monastery of Sion, to which it had been given in 1414, dated February 5, fourteenth of Henry VIII. to Richard Gosnell, Gent. for ninety-nine years, under the yearly rent of £38. 7s. 8d. By old deeds it appears that the manor and rectory reserved to the crown after the dissolution, were, in the reign of Elizabeth, leased to Sir W. Peryam,

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Knt. during his natural life. James I. let it to Christopher Manwaring, at the yearly rent of £54. 7s. 8d. The manor was afterwards sold by Christopher Manwaring, Esq. to Sir Edmund Prideaux, Bart. and at the same time the great tythes were sold to Wadham College. Sir Wilmot Prideaux was the owner of the manor in 1775, and held his court-leet and court-baron at Sidmouth. Thos. Jenkins, Esq. then residing at Rome, became, by purchase, the next lord of the manor; and from him it came to his nephew, the present Thomas Jenkins, Esq.

When *Brice* wrote, he tells us, that at Sidmouth are “some respectable merchants, particularly the Folletts, of good reputation for probity and honor;” and till 1814, the name was preserved in the town, by the late Mr. Abraham Follett, who has left a large family.

FORMER TRADE.

It is certain that the former inhabitants of this place were largely engaged in the Newfoundland Fishery, a branch of maritime commerce which now flourishes chiefly at Dart-

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mouth, and at Poole in Dorsetshire. By this lucrative, but frequently hazardous employment, many considerable, and some large fortunes have been accumulated,—and to this, as well as our other fisheries and coal trade, we are indebted, in a great degree, for that breed of hardy and skilful mariners, to whose courage and dexterity our islands are so deeply indebted, under Providence, for their safety from any hostile attack. Her navy has long been, and with the greatest reason, the boast of Britain: by this, even during the late terrible, protracted, and expensive war, the treasures of the most distant parts of the world were brought into our ports—an intercourse kept up with our numerous colonies—many of the foreign possessions of the enemy fell into our hands—and the greater part of those fleets which, in former periods, insulted and threatened us, even on our own shores, have been captured or destroyed. Such is the navy of Britain; and all possible attention ought to be paid to it: but it may be permitted to the serious observer to remark, that there is a HIGHER protection, which if we forfeit by national and individual iniquity, not all the navies or armies

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in the world can save us from destruction. That protection there is only one way of securing, and that is, not by noisy and hypocritical pretensions to piety, but by real, substantial, and persevering goodness of character.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

Sidmouth has a bold open shore, but on account of the depth of the bay in which it lies, but few vessels of any magnitude come nearer than the extreme edge of the horizon. We have been, however, occasionally gratified by ships of war standing close in ; and when Lord William Bentinck went out Ambassador to Sicily, the *Caledonia* of 120 guns, and three 74's, with several transports, were within three miles of the town. Fishing and pleasure boats are frequently seen spotting the deep blue of the ocean with their white sails, and affording, as they tack and shift their positions, a pleasing and interesting spectacle. Many of the newest lodging-houses are ranged upon the beach, which is defended from the attacks of the ocean by a natural rampart of pebbles, which rises in successive stages, from the sur-



Sidmouth from Clit Rocks.

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face of the sea, at low water. With every tide, the exterior parts of this shifting wall assume a different appearance ; are either raised higher or sunk lower ; or are driven to the east or west, according to the strength and direction of the wind. At low water, considerable spaces of fine hard sand are visible—these afford a walk, which would be more pleasant, were it not so frequently interrupted by collections of stones and streams, which find their way between the pebbles to their parent ocean. In dry weather, however, these streams are very inconsiderable.

At *low* tides, a fine ride is to obtained on the *sands* to westward of Chit Rock ; this road is equally practicable for pedestrians, when defended by thick shoes.

As a watering-place, Sidmouth, in its natural advantages, yeilds to none, and exceeds many of those retreats of *Hygeia*, which utility and fashion have found out, on almost all the coasts of our island. An air mild and salubrious ; a soil uncommonly fertile ; the purest water continually flowing ; and a situation defended from every wind but the south, give it a

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pre-eminence over most of those places on our coast, which are now so generally resorted to both for health and amusement. The beautiful vale in which the town stands, is bounded on both sides by long lofty mountains; these form its eastern and western sides; and towards the north, it is screened by the Gittisham and Honiton hills. The approach to Sidmouth by the new road from Honiton, is in the extreme picturesque.

MACKAREL CATCHING.

The fish with which Sidmouth is supplied, is but little of it caught by the labours of an almost daily decreasing race of fishermen. The finny stores of the deep are brought in by boats, or by land carriage, from Beer on the east, and Brixham on the western side of this place. Vast quantities of mackarel and whittings are occasionally caught immediately opposite the town. They are taken in large nets called a *seine*. The origin of this name does not appear possible to ascertain. The seine and boat are worth an hundred pounds and upwards. The common seine is five hundred yards long; in

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the mackarel season they extend them to seven hundred, and even eight hundred yards. The boat having carried out the net to a certain distance, greater or less as circumstances may require, the seine is shot from the boat, which, as it moves on, forms a circle, being supported by a vast number of corks, affixed at equal distances, to the outside ropes of the net. From each end of the seine, when the semicircle is completed, are cords extending to the beach, and which are held by persons stationed to *haul* or pull in the seine, when completely cast into the sea : these individuals form two rows, which gradually close as the net approaches the shore. Many of the inhabitants and visitors of Sidmouth were gratified in the month of July 1809, with seeing above fifteen thousand mackarel brought in by *one* haul, and opposite Wallis's Library, in 1827, a larger draught was hauled in. It is a curious and entertaining sight to witness the beauty of this fish when first brought out of the water. The diversity and brightness of their colours, which vary every moment, cannot escape the most cursory observer. This is doubtless occasioned by the different atmosphere in which they are then placed ; and hu-

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manity hopes that most of these are muscular motions, and attended with little pain to the expiring animal.

The produce of each *haul* is divided in the following manner: the owner of the seine and boat is entitled to one half of the fish caught; and also to an equal share of the remainder with the rest of the crew, between whom the other half is divided share and share alike. When women (which seldom happens at Sidmouth,) take a part of the adventure; the supposed superiority of strength in the male quite supersedes that politeness which, in some other departments of society, pays a compliment to female assistance; for the lady gets only half as much as the gentleman.

Whether fish are taken or not, the labour is not over when the seine is pulled in. It is necessary that the net should be carefully *overhauled*, that is, spread regularly out upon the shingles for drying; as, when it is first taken out of the sea, it is left in large hillocks, in which situation it would rot and not dry. This overhauling, after an unsuccessful shoot, is a very flat business—nearly an hour of toil is added, after the several labourers have found that there is

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not a fish a-piece to repay them for their time and exertions. Soles, salmon-peal, red mullets, john-dories, turbot, pipers, gurnets, and brills, are the fish most commonly brought to Sidmouth. The shell-fish are crabs, lobsters, shrimps, and prawns.

PLACES ON THE COAST.

That part of the coast which can be seen from Sidmouth beach, has been thus described. From the harbour of Dartmouth, the coast, winding to the north-east, shoots out into a promontory called Berry-head, which forms one side of Torbay, where there is a good roadstead for shipping, but has no port except Brixham. Beyond this lies Teignmouth. Exmouth next appears in view, and then Sidmouth. Nor ought Seaton to be overlooked, once a capacious port, though at present an inconsiderable creek. A great part of the cliffs on the coast, from Exmouth to Lyme, are nearly four hundred feet high, and almost perpendicular. "The High-peak at Sidmouth is supposed to rise six hundred feet from the sea. From Hope's-nose to

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the Berry-head is formed Torbay, being nearly a semicircle of twelve miles."

Changes, more or less considerable, are frequently taking place upon the coast. In the year 1788, there happened a remarkable slip of earth, about half a mile from Beer. From a pasture-down, called Southdown, a great quantity of the cliff gave way, and sank to a considerable depth. The plane surface was full six acres of good ground, and the depth measured perpendicularly about two hundred feet. It happened about twelve o'clock at night; the huge part of the cliff went off with a terrible noise, that greatly alarmed the people of Beer. A more than usually quantity of rain had fallen for many successive days before the cliff gave way. It is the washing of the sea, together with the action of the frosts and wind, which has formed the cliffs at Sidmouth; they were originally sloping hills, which being gradually washed at the bottom, fell down.

One of these *loosenings* of the coast, as they are termed, took place on the 1st of April, 1811, just beyond that part of Peak-hill, on which the signal-house formerly stood; it has rendered

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the former road between Sidmouth and Exmouth so impassible, that the circuitous course which carriages and horses are now obliged to take, has added two miles to the distance betwixt the two places. The road by Newton Poppleford, which is less hilly, is two miles further.

INTERNAL SCENERY.

From the *beach*, Sidmouth appears, on three sides, encompassed with hills; the tops of which, in a beautifully undulating line, form a vast curve of uncommon richness and simplicity. Cultivation nearly approaches to the summits of some of them; and the inclosures, which are numerous, present a rich variety of arable and pasture grounds. Where there are no enclosures, a short sweet and darkish grass covers these elevations. Furze and heath, with their yellow and purple flowers, fill the air with fragrance, and beautifully diversify the scene. Great numbers of sheep browse upon this delicious herbage; and the cottages and bakers' ovens of the town and its vicinity, are many of

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them supplied with fuel from these mountainous store-houses.

The hedges of Devonshire are proverbially large and rich. Sidmouth is closely surrounded with them like so many green and flowery zones; forming a complete contrast to the barren downs which surround Weymouth, Brighton, and the watering places on the Kentish shores. Elms, ashes, and oaks are interspersed in great numbers in almost every inclosure; these are the foresters most commonly to be met with, but many other sorts are scattered here and there. Orchards abound in all directions, and that agreeable beverage, cider, is plentiful, and often extremely delicious. It is probably owing to the pigs being turned into the orchards when the young fruit is dropping from the trees, that a great deal of the Devonshire pork is peculiarly well flavoured.

In the vernal and autumnal parts of the year, the numerous lanes which intersect and divide this rich valley, are truly delightful. The country then seems a universal garden; the air is full of fragrance, and the eye gratified, almost beyond conception; with an incalculable

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diversity of shrubs and flowers : the deep banks are literally covered with vegetable mosaic. Trees, many of which are very lofty, as well as umbrageous, wave their rich foliage in the air, and almost on the margin of the sea display all the luxuriance of inland vegetation. Great quantities of holly and ivy enliven the dreary months of winter ; and with myrtles, laurels, and other evergreens, shed a perpetual verdure over this charming spot. In vallies there is seldom much flat surface : of this, Sidmouth vale is an example—slopes and swells every where meet the eye. Streams, so transparent as to reveal every pebble over which they flow, run from almost every declivity, soothe the ear with their murmurs, and refresh, as well as decorate, the landscape of which they form so sweet a part. The serpentine *Sid*, which, in still weather, is as clear as any of its neighbouring brooks, waters the whole eastern side of the valley, and as it approaches the ocean, washes the marly rocks at the east end of the beach. In summer this stream is so inconsiderable, as to have no *visible* communication with the sea ; but in winter, or in any part of the year, when

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swollen by the rain, it becomes an impetuous torrent. It then disdains to creep beneath the pebbles, but driving them to the right and to the left, opens for itself an unencumbered passage to the "great storehouse of the deep," and from no inconsiderable mouth, pours into it its freshening current.

THE TOWN

Consists of about three hundred and fifty houses, and in the census taken by order of Parliament in the year 1803, was said to contain twelve hundred and fifty-two inhabitants. This number, according to the census in 1813, was increased to above 1600 ; and in the last of 1821, to 2747 ; the number of inhabited houses 480, occupied by 562 families. Beginning from what is termed Mill Cross, at the north end of the town, and ending at the beach, its length is about the third part of a mile. For rather more than half of this space, it is principally one street ; the remainder is divided into two branches, like the letter Y. In the *eastern* branch, which seems rather the best of the two, are shops of almost every description, and two of the inns of

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the town, the *London Inn* and the *Commercial Inn*. In the western branch of the main street is the *Post Office*. Both branches of the Y, as well as the main stem, contain lodging-houses, very various both in size and price.

At the *London Inn* commences a short cross street, which ends in the market-place. On the west of this is a division called *Western Town*, in which most of the remains of the old buildings of Sidmouth are to be found; it consists chiefly of poor low cottages, many of which will, probably, at the expiration of their present tenures, give place to buildings more suitable to those with which they are surrounded. On the east side of the town is another suburb, called, probably from its low situation, as it descends to the river, the *Marsh*: here are also some lodging-houses, and, in the narrower part of it, towards the sea, many small residences for the poorer sort of people have lately been erected.

Returning again to the *London Inn*, from thence a small remaining part of the main street terminates at the Beach.

THE CHURCH.

This structure, which is supposed to be

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about four hundred years old, is a convenient place of worship. Both within and without an air of neatness predominates. It is a slated stone edifice, and its tower is remarkably well built; its open windows are handsomely ornamented. The dial of the clock obscures one of them—of this, some architectural antiquarians have complained, as a sacrifice of taste to utility; but upon the principle that a “living dog is better than a dead lion,” surely such an objection should be given up. A *clock*, which is of constant use to a whole town, is unquestionably of more value than a *window* in a steeple, which not above one person in five hundred would look at with any particular attention: the number of bells in this tower are five. The church had once an organ, which, we are told, “was destroyed in Cromwall’s days;” it has not, however, now to lament the want of this appropriate piece of church music, as a small one has been lately erected by subscription. The south, or principal entrance, which has been lately repaired, and over it a new window opened, is surmounted by a small stone cross, similar to some others at the angles of the roof. The claims of this edifice to the tu-

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telage of a patron saint, are divided betwixt the rival names of St. Nicholas and St. Giles: the argument in favor of St. Nicholas, who is a sort of a Christian Neptune, is, that many churches upon the coast are dedicated to him, and *this* amongst the rest. *That*, in favor of St. Giles, is, perhaps, rather stronger, which is, that the parish wake is held on St. Giles's Monday.

Amongst the older monuments in this church is one on the north side of the chancel, to the memory of Walter Harlewin, Esq.; on the east is another, to the memory of the Rev. John Minshull, formerly vicar of this parish; on the south is a third, in memory of the Rev. Oliver Courtrice, and John his son, the two preceding vicars. Of the modern mural records, many of which adorn both internally and externally the walls of this edifice, and commemorate the virtues of the dead—or hold out admonitory lessons to the living; one of the most distinguished preserves the memory of Dr. Currie, of Liverpool; and another that of a lady from Northumberland—both are slabs of white marble, and surmounted with urns.

Many appropriate texts of scripture, evi-

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dently painted a considerable time ago, are conspicuously placed in the body of the church.

Two new galleries have been erected in the church, which has been much enlarged, and both under and over it are many neat memorials of strangers, mostly in younger life, who have here finished their mortal course.

In the *church-yard*, as Sidmouth becomes more celebrated for the winter as well as the summer retreats of invalids, every year adds to the number of tomb-stones. Many of them, as may easily be supposed, are erected over the remains of those, who, seeking too late the renovating breezes of this charming place, have here paid the debt of nature. Several of these mortuary erections are in a handsome, substantial style. One of them records the name of the Reverend Samuel Blackall, B. D. Rector of Loughborough, who was so delighted with Sidmouth, while living, as to wish to be buried in the church-yard. He was the grandson of Dr. Offspring Blackall, who was Bishop of Exeter in the reign of Queen Anne, and, from the great interest which her Majesty took in his elevation, denominated the Queen's Bishop.

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The church of Sidmouth was granted in 1212, by Bishop Marshall, to the monastery of *St. Michael de Monte*, in Normandy, to which the priory of Otterton was a cell. Sidmouth is now a *vicarage*, the rectorial tythes belong to Wadham College, Oxford ; and for the vicarial the inhabitants pay a composition. The Rev. William Jenkins, brother of Thomas Jenkins, Esq. the lord of the manor, is the present incumbent. The vicarage-house is situated near the entrance of the town from the north : it is an old building modernised, and very considerably enlarged and improved.

A house near the beach, for many years known by the sign of the *Anchor*, afterwards a private dwelling, and about the year 1805 pulled down, is said to have been a *chapel of ease*, while Otterton was the mother-church. The thickness of its stone walls, the firmness of the cement by which the stones were united, and its chapel looking door-way arched with stone, certainly favoured this idea. In further confirmation of it, there ran near it a path leading from Sidbury and Sidmouth to Otterton, called *Go-church*, in which, till about forty-five

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or fifty years since, an ancient stone cross was standing : its situation, and the space it occupied, are still discoverable, by a difference in the pavement near the present market-house.

THE OLD DISSENTING CHAPEL

Is situated at the north entrance of the town, at the corner of Mill-lane.

THE INDEPENDANTS CHAPEL

Is a very neat and commodious edifice, situated at the eastern end of Theatre-lane.

ACCOMMODATIONS.

There are three Inns in the town,—the *London Inn*, the *York Hotel*, and the *Commercial Inn*. The original Assembly and Card Rooms are at the London Inn ; the Assembly Room is large, well fitted up, and the floor has an excellent spring ; it is generally well attended. The landlord, J. Hetherington, was butler to E. B. Lousada, esq.

The *York Hotel* is a large handsome house ; it stands on the beach, and has an uninterrupted view of the whole bay in which Sidmouth lies.

The *Commercial Inn*, is upon a smaller scale

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than either the London Inn or the Hotel. Very good accommodations are to be met with here also, and it possesses a convenient stable. At the London Inn, and York Hotel, post-chaises, good horses, and careful drivers are to be had; and the proprietor of the Commercial Inn has for hire, excellent gigs and horses, at reasonable charges.

Mr. Pearcy, who is admirably well qualified, is the proprietor of a Boarding House upon the Beach, in an undeniable situation for such an establishment.

The Market-House is a convenient modern brick edifice, surmounted with a ball and weathercock.

THE BEACH

Is the grand public mall: it is a delightful broad walk, upon the margin of the sea, railed and rolled in a very good style. It is a quarter of a mile and eighty-eight yards in length, and is furnished at the extremities, and in some other parts, with neatly painted convenient double seats, from which either the land or the sea may be contemplated with every advantage.

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Going westward, and at the eastern corner of the new Subscription Cricket Ground, is

WALLIS'S, THE ROYAL MARINE LIBRARY.

This is a very neat pile of building with battlements, and at the western extremity is a flag-staff, upon which the Union is hoisted to celebrate the anniversary of royal birth-days, and other public occasions. *When Sidmouth had no establishment of this description*, the present proprietor embarked his property under the most favorable patronage; among whom he had the honor to boast, Lord Gwydir, Lady Willoughby, Lord and Lady Le Despencer, Emanuel Baruh Lousada, Esq. and the principal nobility of the town and neighbourhood. The Library was first opened to the public, June the 20th, 1809, and this romantic watering-place at length boasted what it had long desired—a lounging place in a conspicuous and pleasant situation, where articles of fancy, as well as information and utility, may be met with; where the news of the day may be collected and discussed, and an opportunity given for the pleasures of social intercourse. No

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situation can be more favorable for all these purposes than the Royal Marine Library; from hence the spectator commands a near and utterly unimpeded view of the sea, comprehending the immense bay within Portland and the Berry-head. Parties are often chatting on its benches: the gay and healthy are amused, and the invalid finds a spot from which he can inhale those salubrious breezes which so frequently suspend the ravages of disease, pour fresh oil into the lamp of life, and send him back with renovated energies, to both the cares and the joys of mortality.

It may be mentioned as a proof of the distance at which objects may be seen from the beach, as well as a memorable historical fact, that from the veranda of the Marine Library, the late Right Hon. Lord Gwydir and Lord Charles Bentick, witnessed the entrance into Torbay, of his Majesty's ship *Bellerophon*, with Napoleon Bonaparte on board.

A BEAUTIFUL CAMERA OBSCURA

Is erected at the western corner of this building; to those who are unacquainted with the nature

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of this most interesting exhibition, we cannot explain it better, than by an extract from a recent publication, entitled *Reflections during a Ramble in Germany*.—"We went to the Camera Obscura, because it is usual, and therefore thought it but right to give the expected fee; a Camera Obscura I can be amused by for hours, when man is the thing exhibited,—man lilliputionized. It is a fine lesson of humility to see thus a crowded and fashionable esplanade, a race course, &c."

In this small room every surrounding object is seen in miniature. The sea—the whole esplanade—the eastern and western cliffs—the cricket ground—new promenade—and the surrounding country; with the company, vessels, and every object in motion, reflected in their natural vivid colours. Admittance, one shilling each person.

In the month of October, 1819, Mr. Wallis had the distinguished honour, when the late Duke of Kent first visited Sidmouth, of conducting his Royal Highness to the old and new sea-water baths, &c. and was subsequently introduced at the York Hotel, to sub-

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mit the much admired panoramic view for his Royal Highness's inspection, of which he expressed his decided approbation, and was graciously pleased to accept a copy, and say it would afford him much pleasure to show it to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. On the 24th of December following, their Royal Highnesses and suite arrived at Sidmouth, previous to which Mr. Wallis received the honor of his appointment, to be Bookseller, &c. to their Royal Highnesses household, dated Kensington Palace.

Directions to the COTTAGES, and RESIDENCES of
the Nobility and Gentry, in

THE ENVIRONS OF SIDMOUTH.

THE houses and estates scattered in the immediate vicinity of the town, adorn, not merely the flat part of the vale, but the slopes of the hills which bound it on either side.

In the flat part of the valley, west of the town, and open to the sea, a row of brick houses appear, eleven in number, which if finished according to the plan laid down, would form a

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crescent with a small curve.—No. 4 is the residence of the Misses Schimmelpenninck ; No. 5, of Capt. George White, R. N.; the rest are all let for hire. The field in which they stand is called the *Fort Field*, from a little fort which was erected during the late war, but it is now demolished.

Entering the Fort Field from the Royal Marine Library, the first buildings that offer themselves are, two small brick dwellings with a balcony, for hire, called *Potbury's Houses*, No. 1 and 2; further on are three houses for hire, called *Denby Place*.

A large brick house near the Church, is *Fort House*, and is the property of Sir John Ken-
naway, Bart. by whom it has been greatly enlarged and beautified ; it is capable of receiving a large establishment, or is let as two distinct houses. On the east side of Fort House stands *Cobourg Terrace*, opposite which is *Amyat Row*, where lodgings are very reasonable.

On the west of Fort House is *Barton Cottage*, a neat and convenient residence. Immediately adjoining, is a large brick house, well fitted up, belonging to Mr. Rafarel, and calculated for the



Ameyal Place. Sidmouth.

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reception of a nobleman's or extensive establishment.

At the entrance into the Fort Field, opposite the church, is a house and garden belonging to Miss Pleydell; the internal part is very tastefully fitted up and prepared by Mr. Johnson, of Ludgate Hill, in a manner perfectly unique.

Proceeding up the Fort Field from Mr. Rafarel's, and separated from it by a lane, stands *Rosemount*, with a neat flower garden in front; a very pleasant habitation erected by C.E. Pigou, Esq. formerly his residence, but now to be let for a long or short period.

Adjoining is a neat and pretty cottage, belonging to Miss Rose; and a little further up the lane, *Violet Bank Cottage*.

At the end of the lane, on the left hand, is *Cotmaton*, an ancient seat, commanding a pleasant view of the bay. It was sold by the Duke of Otterton, to William Harlewin, Esq. Sir John Harlewin, who was knighted for his valour in the reign of Edward IV. lived at Sidmouth; and his descendants continued to reside there to the time of Charles II.

Immediately at the corner stands *Cotmaton*

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House, the residence of Henry Stuart, Esq. who has greatly improved it by adding two handsome bow windows on the ground floor, projecting into the garden, and other alterations, effected since he has been in possession of it. John Carslake, Esq. is the owner of this, together with *New Cotmaton*. A house built by John Carslake, Esq. his late uncle, almost adjoining the old one, is the residence of Miss Bethell. Its front looks full on the sea, and like the terrace in its beautiful garden, commands a fine view of the expanse of ocean. To see the front of this house, it will be necessary to go into the Fort Field, and cross opposite Rosemount Cottage, where you will find a path leading to a neat iron bridge, on the left of which are seen the offices and gardens of *Woolbrook Cottage*, where His Royal Highness the late Duke of Kent died.

Ascending the gravel walk on your right, the very neat residence of John Carslake, Esq. called *Asherton Cottage*, is seen; and at the summit on the left hand, is *Witheby*, the elegant cottage planned and built by Miss Floyd, standing at the head of a fine verdant meadow. This

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beautiful *cottage ornee* has been enlarged and decorated by the taste and spirit of its possessor Miss Wrighte, in such a manner as to render it a most lovely residence. The new carriage approach from Mill Lane, while it increases the convenience of access, adds a new beauty to the scenery around it.

On the right hand, approaching Miss Wrighte's, with a beautiful lawn and shrubbery before it, and an excellent walled garden, rises *The Marino*, the well designed and highly finished house of the Reverend James Hobson : the view from the lawn, both of sea and land, is rich and extensive.

Proceed between *Witheby* and *The Marino*, and enter Mill Lane ; immediately opposite which is a large and commodious residence, called *Cotland House*. It is delightfully situated upon a commanding eminence ; the approach is through a luxuriant shrubbery, and it commands a fine and extensive prospect of land and water : this house is capable of receiving a large genteel family. Turn to the left, and the other side of the road is Miss Wrighte's shrubbery and carriage way ; opposite to which is *Helens*, an ex-

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cellent house, with coach-house and stables, belonging to Mrs. Butcher, and makes up twelve or thirteen beds. Next to it is the handsome mansion of Edward Lee, Esq. where considerable alterations have lately been made, and the shrubs and trees in its front, and on its wings, are every year increasing its beauty. Both these houses are delightfully situated, and between the trees, which flourish luxuriantly about them, have charming views of the sea and the surrounding country.

Proceeding towards the hill, the extremely neat lodge of *Peak House*, the property and residence of the hospitable Emanuel Baruh Louzada, Esq. is the next object of attention. The drive from the lodge up to the house is uncommonly fine ; on the *right* hand a shrubbery full of fragrance and beauty, through the greater part of which there is a serpentine foot-path, and on the *left* an unbroken view of the ocean, at all times an interesting and elevating spectacle. The mansion itself, which has been considerably added to, and improved to a great extent by that gentleman, is, with its fine grounds and gardens, a delightful abode. It is upon a



The High Peak.

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considerably elevated situation, and commands a fine reach of the ocean, the white and yellow cliffs of Bere, Charmouth, and Bridport, and the bold promontory of Portland.

Considerably above Mr. Baruh's, erected by him, and standing on his estate, are five or six small houses; one is a fanciful building, which, before its battlements were removed, had something the appearance of a small fort. The other has a veranda, and a stable and coach house attached to it. It is needless to add, that a noble, diversified, and extensive view presents itself from the windows of these mountain houses.

Nearest to the cliff is *Mount Sid Cottage*, the residence of Capt. Young, R. N. with stable, gig-house, and every desirable convenience; amongst which is a most prolific kitchen garden, where fruits and vegetables flourish luxuriantly, and attain the highest state of perfection.

On the southern extremity of Peak Hill stood a *Signal House*, now happily untenanted. In fine weather, this is often the boundary of a ride or walk, and the lovers of landscape beauty, not only from this point, but in the several stages of their progress, are richly rewarded for the

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labour of the ascent, by the vast panorama which spreads its ample circle around them. Sea and land unite in this picture. If any vessels are passing, here they must be visible; and on the land side the prospect is replete with all the charms which nature and art can give to such a scene. The ridges of the hills, which in every direction bound the view, are for the most part without cultivation; but this comparative sterility only serves to augment the richness of the general prospect: by the contrast, the fine foliage of the trees and hedges is shown to greater advantage. Fertility and beauty unite in every part of the scene; the landscape is complete: the earth clothed with verdure, the air balmy and refreshing, orchards and gardens, hills of all dimensions, large stacks of hay and corn, and a multitude of habitations, many of them a pure white, which harmonizes so well with the azure above and the green below. The tops of the hills afford full scope for the entertainment and health which are combined in *equestrian* exercise.

Having feasted the sight from hence, and witnessed the equally magnificent view from the

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western side of the hill, return to the lodge of *Peak House*, and passing *Helens* and *Cotland House*, proceed down the lane till you arrive at the elegant rustic lodge belonging to the Rev. Mr. Hobson's *Marino*, which is an object of universal admiration. The ivy which creeps up its slender pillars, and hangs in festoons from its roof, gives it a simple elegance which no other ornament could have bestowed.

Pass over a wooden bridge, and on the left is a neat cottage occupied by Mrs. Col. Kingsbury, and at the corner of a lane, a short distance further on, is the carriage entrance to *Springfield Cottage*, the residence of J. B. Bernard, Esq. Great taste has been shewn here, both in the internal and external alterations, by which he has converted a mean looking brick house into one of the most interesting cottages in the vicinity of Sidmouth. The judicious manner in which he has *thinned* the luxuriant trees and shrubs with which he found the grounds crowded, while it enlarges his prospects, has really increased the beauty of the scene. Trees are, no doubt, a great beauty in a landscape; but it is possible to have too many of them.

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Having passed this cottage, proceed straight down the lane before you, at the bottom of which, upon the left hand, is the rustic cottage of Rear-Admiral Digby. The exterior, which was altered by the late Lord Gwydir, from a farm-house called *Old Hayes*, had a fanciful and unique appearance. Its garden, which is but small, is partly an orchard: on the whole northern side of it ran a covered walk of uncommon simplicity and beauty. The roof, the interior of which was formed of straight sticks, with the bark left on, was supported by two rows of oak pollards—round which roses, honey-suckles, the clematis, and other climbing shrubs and flowers, twined themselves. The walk was terminated by a small room, with seats, framed of the same rustic materials, which had the appearance of a hermitage or chapel; the whole having very much the air of the cloister of some religious edifice.

The adjoining is also the property of Admiral Digby, and is named *Spring Gardens*; immediately beyond which, secluded from public view, is the peculiarly neat and comfortable cottage of H. Carew, Esq.

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In the field opposite Admiral Digby's, is *Powys Cottage*, the residence of Mrs. Powys Floyd ; a second specimen of that lady's elegant and happy taste. The length of the building is one hundred and twenty feet, the middle division of which is a conservatory: it is surrounded with beautiful shrubberies, walks, and garden ground, and commands a fine view of the church, embosomed in rich foliage, with the sea in the distance.

At the opposite corner of the lane to Powys Cottage is *Audley Cottage*, the greatly admired abode of the Dowager Lady Audley.

On a beautiful eminence, to the north of the residence of H. Carew, Esq. a few years ago Lord Le Despenser erected a *Marine Villa*: it was a thatched building, forming nearly a quadrangle, and contained about forty rooms.— It is known by the name of *Knowle Cottage*, and is now the property of T. L. Fish, Esq., who has considerably reduced the number of rooms, and made the house in every respect more comfortable; the improvements and embellishments he has added, have rendered it a truly picturesque and enchanting residence. The veranda and roof

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white and common pheasants, American, French red-legged, and common partridges. Mr. Fish, who owns this costly assemblage, and luxuriant spot, most liberally throws open his gates for the public gratification every Monday, during his sojourn at Sidmouth, (which is from July to October) between the hours of two and four o'clock. It is to be hoped no damage will be done to the shrubs, &c. nor any liberty taken, which may prevent the liberal proprietor continuing this great attraction, and consequent benefit to the town.

Returning from *Knowle*, enter Mill Lane between *Powys* and *Audley* cottages, and about half-way down on the left, upon a lovely eminence, is *Belle Vue*, the residence of Moses Gut-terres, Esq. The next to it is *Ivy Cottage*, and on the opposite side of the road stands *Rose Cottage*, having, from the southern window, a view of Blackmoor fields, and the church and sea in the distance.

At the bottom of Mill Lane, turning to the left, are two substantial and genteel houses, with pleasure ground in front; the first is occupied by — Blatch, Esq. and that adjoining by Lieut.Col.

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Hogg. A little farther on is *Radway Cottage*, belonging to Mr. J. G. Jenkins, solicitor ; and next to it is the *Vicarage*, the Rev. W. Jenkins. Still farther on the left is a spot, called *Balsters*. The first cottage is named *The Hermitage*, Miss Slaters ; next to it is a convenient and pleasant lodging house, belonging to Mr. Barrett ; and the third is the very neat cottage of Miss Tinney, known as *The Shrubbery*, having a view over the Elysian fields. Much taste has been displayed by Mr. Barrett in the disposal of these buildings, which excites the admiration of every visitor to this charming retreat. Entering the iron gateway, on the right is *Temple Cottage*, the residence of Christopher Marriott, Esq. who also owns the next, *Rosebank Cottage*, now occupied by Mrs. Martin.

Camden Cottage, upon the left, is the property of Capt. Stapleton, and is a lodging house. Adjoining *Rosebank Cottage* is *Cumberland Cottage*, John Rookes, Esq. ; and next to it *Richmond House*, opposite which is *Somerden Cottage*, D. O'Brien, Esq. ; still further, on the summit of a beautiful rising ground, commanding a grand view of country, and the broad expanse

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of ocean in the distance, is the residence of — Mackie, Esq.; the approach to this house is on the right hand from the lane, at a short distance beyond Mr. Fish's cottage, with a view of the sea, and overlooking the small deer park of Knowle; a new cottage stands at the side of the same carriage entrance, possessing every convenience.

From the Elysian Fields proceed on the Exeter road through the turnpike, and pass a plantation on the right, belonging to Lieut.-General Walker; a short distance further, on the left, upon an elevated and commanding situation, is *Arcot House*, the seat of Lieut.-General Rumley. Entering the Honiton road, upon the right, is *Livonia Cottage*, the property of Capt. Elphinstone, R. N.; and still further on the left, at the road side, is *Bloomfield Cottage*.

Returning to the vicarage, pass down the Lyme road, and over a neat stone bridge, through the turnpike; on the right hand is *Mount Pleasant*, the property of Mrs. Pollard; walk on the Salcombe side of the river Sid towards the sea, and you will arrive at the



From Mount Sid Cottage.

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mill, directly opposite which is the private foot-path to *Salcombe Hill*, the mansion of George Cornish, Esq. This edifice, which has a handsome colonade in front, and the luxuriant and beautiful scenery with which it is surrounded, enrich and adorn the eastern boundary of Sidmouth.

Myrtle Cottage, decorated by the taste of Miss Campbell, is delightfully situated, immediately under *Salcombe Hill*—the exterior of its garden is washed by the Sid. This lady has added a green-house, and at a great expense, very much enlarged and improved the premises, contributing in an eminent degree to the truly attractive scenery of Sidmouth. One of the principal beauties of this scenery, is *Egypt Cottage*, pleasantly perched, like a nest in a grove, upon the lowest ridge of *Salcombe Hill*, directly above *Myrtle Cottage*, late the residence of the Rev. G. J. Cornish.

From the grounds of George Cornish, Esq. which extend to the sea, a near view of the town is to be obtained—the little bay in which it is secluded—many of the indentations of the coast—the deep-ribbed side of the high peak—

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the western boundary of the ever-memorable Torbay, and Berry Head, which appears plunging into the distant waves, and marking the line which separates the sky from the land. It is thought that the most extensive land view is to be had from this eastern height; the eye ranges over a space of at least forty miles, and rests the extremity of its vision upon the most elevated points of *Dartmoor*.

It is necessary here to remark that the grounds of Salcombe Hill are not accessible to strangers without permission. Return to the turnpike at Waterloo Bridge, and enter Sid Lane.

On the left hand, delightfully situated in a fine lawn, and surrounded with sylvan scenery, is *Salcombe House*, the property of the very Rev. the Dean of York. The river, which runs through the grounds, and on the side of which there is a walk open to the public, is, especially when swollen by rain, a fine feature in the landscape.

A little beyond Salcombe House, is *Hill's Cottage*, now the property of the Misses Leigh, late of Slade. On the right hand of the lane

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beyond, is the house of Mrs. Lyde, and in a field nearly opposite, the elegant box of R. Miles, Esq. At a still greater distance from the town, lies *Sid Cliff*, the secluded and truly romantic cottage of J. Bacon, Esq. originally planned and laid out by the taste of Mrs. Boehm, of London; and considerably added to and improved by its present proprietor. Beyond *Sid Cliff* is a fanciful building denominated *Sid Abbey*, the residence of Capt. Clarke; the river *Sid* meanders at the bottom of the garden, and the prospect from every part of the dwelling, for richness and diversity, cannot be exceeded.

For the indulgence of that occasional retirement from the world, which is so conducive to health of body, and to the refreshment and vigour of the mind, and in which wise and virtuous spirits have at all times so much delighted, the immediate vicinity of Sidmouth is peculiarly calculated: it abounds with lanes, many of them of considerable length and variety, more or less sequestered, and at all times perfectly safe—in which, either on foot or horseback, the delights of solitude, or of society upon

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a small scale, may be enjoyed. The *beach*, on the contrary, offers to such as are most happy in a crowd, whose grand enjoyment it is to see and be seen—a walk, in which, at almost all times, amusement and health are to be found. Few, indeed, are those days in the year, on which, in some part or other of them, if not the whole, a promenade on the beach is not dry and agreeable.

NEW PROMENADE, CRICKET GROUND, AND BOWLING GREEN.

The town of Sidmouth is infinitely indebted to the exertions of a select number of gentlemen, who have, at a considerable rent, taken a lease of the *Fort Field*, and superintended the execution according to their own plans, in improvements of great importance, for the comforts and enjoyments of the company resorting to it.

The turf, which has been wholly taken up, is newly laid and levelled for the cricket ground—constantly rolled, swept, and kept in perfect order. The club meet from the month of May, every Monday throughout the season,

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and play is continued all day. A marquee is pitched upon an elevated spot of ground at the northern extremity of the field, where a cold dinner is provided for the members and their friends, to the number of thirty persons; a small tent, with attendants, being pitched next the marquee. Adjoining this elevation is a fine levelled spot for a Bowling Green, and round the whole field there is formed a gravel walk, five times round which is one mile and a half. The Terrace at the southern extremity is a most agreeable lounge, being provided with convenient seats, and is one hundred and seventy feet long, and twelve feet broad. The whole promenade is enclosed with a light iron railing, which excludes all improper company. The terms of subscription are as follows :—

For a family for the year	£1	1	0
For an individual	0	10	6
For a family for any period not exceeding two months	}	0	10 6
For a single person for the same period			
		0	5 0

The principal houses in the town are, *Myrtle Hall*, the residence of Henry Manning, Esq.; that built by General Grinfield, now the pro-

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perty and residence of H. Cutler, Esq.; and Mrs. Le Marchant's.

Westward of the Terrace, at the southern extremity of the Fort Field, is an embattled wall, enclosing *Belmont House*, the most convenient and delightful residence of Lieut. Gen. Walker.

Near it is a neat wooden bridge, over a stream, which gives its name to *Woolbrook Cottage*, situated at the upper part of a *Ham*, through which this pretty rivulet winds its course to the sea. This greatly admired and lovely spot, was the short residence of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Kent, with the Princess Victoria. His Royal Highness, to the inexpressible sorrow of the nation at large, breathed his last at this cottage, January, 1820.

Near the bridge, and overlooking the grounds of Woolbrook Cottage, is a pleasant red brick dwelling, called *Westmount*; and upon the left hand, fronting the sea, are five lodging houses, denominated *Clifton*; a few yards further west, is a pleasant house, called *Rock Cottage*, which is for hire; and beyond it is

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Clifton Cottage, much improved by the addition of a rustic bridge, &c. and greatly admired, the residence of — Crampton, Esq.

The last house previous to ascending Peak Hill, is *Cliff Cottage*, one of the most luxuriantly situated in Sidmouth. It commands an extensive and uninterrupted panoramic view, embracing sea, cliffs, mountains, and vallies. This retreat of Major Gray cannot be surpassed, and although at the edge of a cliff, it has not only a beautiful panterre of flowers, but a kitchen garden, abounding with the choicest fruits and vegetables. In commemoration of the victories obtained during the Peninsular war, Major Gray, upon each anniversary, hoists a St. George's ensign, on an elevated spot, commanded by the whole promenade.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DRYING AND PRESERVING MARINE PLANTS.

All the smaller plants should be expanded under water, in a plate, upon a piece of writing paper, sunk to the bottom. In this state they

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will assume their natural form and position. The paper, with the plant upon it, must be withdrawn from the water gently; and the plant and paper must afterwards be placed between two or three sheets of blotting-paper, and pressed with a book or flat board. When taken from hence, it is to be put between fresh sheets of paper, until all the moisture appears to be gone; it is then to be laid up in a quire of blotting-paper, under pressure, for a day or two, when, if *dry*, it may be placed permanently upon writing-paper. The larger coriaceous kinds require a good deal of drying, in successive changes of paper, and in a very dry room, or near the fire. When once dried, and put into a herbarium, they seldom become damp again.

THE CLIMATE.

A SONNET, written upon a return to Sidmouth.

SIDMOUTH! Hygeia's chosen seat!
Again receive me: let me greet
Thy ruddy cliffs, thy pebbly beach,
Thy broad majestic ocean reach,
And streams that murmur thro' thy green retreat.
Thy primrose banks, thy balmy skies,
Thy lofty trees which graceful rise,

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Thy lanes and orchards, mountain-bound,
Thy fields with ceaseless verdure crown'd,
And every gem which Flora's hand supplies.

Sweet realm of peace, my chosen home,
To thee with joy again I come :
The lamp of life but dimly burns,
But when my step to thee returns,
With brighten'd ray shoots up the ruddy flame,
And lights afresh the renovated frame.

The air of Sidmouth is sometimes moist, but always pure, and, with very few exceptions, mild and soft. There are no stagnant waters in its vicinity, but, as has been already remarked, a number of the purest streams constantly flowing.

Many of the faculty think the air of Sidmouth equal to that of the south of France, and very commonly recommend it to invalids, particularly to those who are affected by, or have a tendency to, consumptions. The natives and stated inhabitants of the place are, in general, healthy and strong, and live to a good old age. *Eighty* and *ninety* are ages frequently to be met with, and some few live to more than a *hundred* years.

A striking proof of the mildness of the Sid-

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mouth air is, that both the large and small leaved myrtles are planted out of doors, and bear the winter without any shelter; against many houses and garden walls, they rise to a great height. All kinds of geraniums, phusias, and other tender plants, flourish luxuriantly at this place, with very little attention.

It is remarkable, that storms very seldom occur in this part of Devonshire; the thunder is generally very distant, and the lightning mild and beautiful; it is often seen when no thunder can be heard—a proof that the explosion takes place at a great distance.

Occasional storms, however, are by no means to be considered as an unnecessary part of the economy of nature. “After, by a storm, the lower stratum of the atmosphere has been thoroughly mixed with the surface of the water of the sea, the air is more pure and salubrious. Even hurricanes improve the healthiness of the climates where they take place.” How just, as well as pious upon this subject, is the remark of Dr. Buchan! “Thus, while contemplating the “tempest, that in its rage appears to convolve “sea and sky, we learn to revere the Author of

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“nature, who in his wisdom has ordained this
“awful instrument, which, while it sweeps
“from the surface of the earth that noxious va-
“pour, whose accumulation would eventually
“put an end to animal existence, blends it with
“the agitated waters of the ocean, in whose bo-
“som it becomes harmless, and is, probably,
“rendered subservient to some useful purpose.”

Sometimes, at Sidmouth, as in other parts of England, a very hot day occurs, but it is seldom that even in such cases, the heat is not tempered by a refreshing breeze.

The West of England has been commonly considered as more rainy than almost any other part of the island. This is by no means a well-established fact. A gentleman at Plymouth, not long ago, assured us in one of the periodical publications, that by comparing the accounts which he, and a friend of his in the upper part of Yorkshire, had kept for some years, of the quantity of rain which fell in those two distant points, the balance was in favour of the west; that is, during that period more rain fell in Yorkshire than at Plymouth. In the vicinity of the sea, and in the neighbourhood of lofty

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hills, it may, perhaps, be admitted, that in general more rain falls than in an open level country.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

*Lowest State of the Thermometer at the following places,
Friday Morning, February 9, 1816.*

	°	'
Stamford Hall, Leicestershire, a little } after eight o'clock in the morning.. }	1	0
Nottingham, half-past seven	4	2
Exeter, by a Register	18	0
Heavitree, at eight	21	0
Sidmouth, by a Register	21	0

*Lowest State of the Thermometer at the following places,
Saturday Morning, January 15, 1820.*

Blackheath	below Zero.
Stratford, near Bow	1
Tottenham, Middlesex	1
Lewes, Sussex	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eltham, Kent	4
Staffordshire	6
Shropshire	7
Barton-Street, Westminster	9
Exeter	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sidmouth	16

The Thermometer at *Sidmouth*, situated north-east at Wallis's Royal Marine Library, during the severe January of 1820, average 36°,

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was never below 16°, and several days between 40° and 50°.

NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

Among the cliffs, and in the beautiful shady lanes of Sidmouth, the lover of natural history may find much to study, and much to amuse him. The botanist may cull a variety of plants, and the admirer of *fossils* collect many of the curious internal productions of the earth. *Pholens* of great beauty are occasionally met with; and the stones of the cliffs, many of them, are mixed with *echinæ marinæ*, petrified coral, and other similar productions. The *cornu ammonis* is to be found here, of all sizes; one of the inhabitants of the town has got a very fine one, of an embellished metallic appearance, above twenty inches in diameter, which he found in the cliffs.

In the little basins, worn by the waves in the rocks, elegant corallines abound; and not unfrequently that wonderful marine production, the æmone, or animal flower. It is difficult, indeed impossible, to decide to which of the kingdoms of nature, the animal or vegetable,

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this half-animated substance belongs. It possesses a kind of fungus consistency, by which it adheres to the rocks, while the part presented to the eye has the appearance of a multitude of small snakes, of various and beautiful colours, which diverging from a centre, spread into a circle, something like the corolla of the anemone, from which it derives its name—these threads are in constant motion. This creature is found in the little pools among the rocks, generally covered with water.

Spars, transparent and crystalized, in various forms, particularly the *rhomboidal* and *hexangular*, are found in various parts of Devonshire. On a great number of the lime rocks, calcareous incrustations are found. Lime and marble are produced in almost all parts of the country, except in the moor-stone districts. Many of these marbles, as the chimney-pieces of most of the new houses of Sidmouth prove, for their hardness and beautiful veinings, rival the best Italian marble, and when polished, fall very little short of it in lustre. Most of the marble of Devonshire which is not black, is a sort of flesh colour, with brownish spots and veins of different shades.

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Lime upon this coast is in general very plentiful, and some of it of a very good quality. It is used in great quantities for manure, as well as the usual purposes to which it is applied.

Alabaster is found in great plenty in the cliffs near Sidmouth, as well as in various other parts of Devonshire ; its texture is granular, with shining particles : it is a deposition from the water that distils from the lime-stone rocks.

GEOLOGY.

As Geology, a branch of science so highly interesting itself, is every day becoming more popular, the author of this work is happy in having it in his power to enrich it with the following geological remarks upon *South Devon*, from the pen of Mr. Robert Bakewell, Mineralogical Surveyor, the well known author of the Introduction to Geology, &c.

“ *To the Rev. E. Butcher,*

“ My dear Sir,

“ In compliance with your request to communicate my observations on the geology of the country in the vicinity of Sidmouth, I send you

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the following brief remarks on some of the leading features, which may interest the general reader.

“The *southern coast*, from Portland Head to Exmouth, exhibits a fine section of the different *strata* as they rise in succession to the south-west, the sea having laid bare the surface, and presented a perpendicular face of rock nearly along the whole line. The southern counties, *east* of Portland, Hampshire, Sussex and Kent, are almost exclusively occupied with rocks of the *chalk* formation, and their accompanying beds of sand and clay. The *roe-stone* which succeeds, terminates at Portland. Between Portland and Bridport Bay there appears to have been a considerable break in the strata, and the *green sand*, which, in its regular position, is above the roe-stone, may be seen rising from the sea, *east* of Bridport; this stratum, which is provincially called *fox mold*, extends far to the west, as we shall have subsequently to observe.

“The *blue lias*, covered by the green sand, rises from the sea near Bridport, and extends from thence to the river Ax, with little inter-

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ruption. This is the most remarkable and best characterized of any of the British strata. The whole thickness of this bed cannot be less than *two hundred yards*. It is composed of numerous thin strata of dark grey lime-stone, combined with much clay and iron, and some manganese. Many of the strata form an excellent water lime-stone; the beds of dark clay which intervene, abound with *pyrites*, and have been known to take fire spontaneously. The strata rises gradually to the south-west, but there are numerous faults, or breaks, which throw them down on the western side of such breaks from *ten to thirty* feet.

“Large masses from the perpendicular cliffs of lias are constantly falling down, and discovering the imbedded petrifications of numerous tribes of extinct animals. The lias lime-stone is the lowest of the British lime-stones that contain the remains of oviparous quadrupeds, or of any vertebrated animals, that is, such which have a brain and spinal marrow. Remains of fossil alligators, in a mutilated state, are very frequently found. I was fortunate enough to obtain part of a *small jaw*, very perfect; on

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comparing it with the drawings of *Cuvier*, it nearly resembles that of the *Gangetic Crocodile*. About a mile west of Lyme, there is a small formation of chalk at Pinney, resting on the fox-mole, over the lias. The lias continues to near Axminster, where several of the lower beds lose their dark grey colour, and are called *white lias*. This white lias may be seen distinctly resting on the red marle *east* of Axminster.

“It may be proper to observe, that the same bed of lias runs *northward*, through Dorset, Somersetshire, and Gloucestershire, and into some of the *northern* counties of England, carrying with it, in its whole extent, numerous fossil remains of ammonites, pentacrinites, nautilites, scaly fish, and the bones of alligators. Near Bath, it is more indurated and crystalline than in Dorsetshire. The red marle, which succeeds the lias, is suddenly broken on the west side of the Ax, and a small formation of chalk makes its appearance at Beer, where we are presented with a fantastic range of chalk rocks and caverns, the chalk forming perpendicular cliffs, projecting into the sea. The *fox-mold*, or green sand, succeeds, and then the red

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marle, which extends from near Beer to Sidmouth, and to the west of Exmouth, constituting a range of precipitous cliffs, rising from the sea more than 600 feet, in several parts of its course, particularly in Salcombe and Peak Hills. The *red marle*, as it has been denominated by some geologists, consists of silicious particles, mixed with clay, and deeply coloured by the red oxyd of iron; various beds of stratified sandstone occur in it, particularly at Heavitree, near Exeter; these strata are evidently of mechanical formation, and contain imbedded fragments of slate, and amygdaloid, similar to the rocks on the west of Exeter.

“Geologists have been perplexed, in attempting to class the *red marle* with the rocks in Werner’s system, some supposing it to occupy the place of what he denominates the *old red sand-stone*. But without stopping to inquire what place it occupies in any geological system, I will briefly state what place it really occupies in Devonshire.

“I have before observed, that it rises from under the lias lime-stone; now where this lime-stone occurs, it is always above the *coal* forma-

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tion, but, in the *south* of Devon, the coal formation is entirely wanting, and also the mountain lime-stone under the coal, and the red marle supplies the place of both, extending from the river *Ax* to some miles west of the *Exe*, where it is found resting on coarse slate, provincially called *shillet*.—The *east* side of Exeter stands on the red marle, the *west* on the slate or shillet. Near the termination of red marle on the west, various rocks of *balsatic* formation, provincially called *dun-stone*, frequently occur between the slate and red marle, and in many parts the rocks of dun-stone project through the red marle.

“The *dun-stone* differs much in its quality; in some parts it is a *sienite*, and passes into *green-stone*, or *trap*, in other parts it is more like what the Germans would call a compact *grey wacke*; sometimes it assumes all the appearance of real *lava*, containing numerous hollow cells, and presenting a dry and burnt aspect: in this state it cannot be distinguished from many *volcanic lavas*. Were I to hazard a conjecture respecting the formation of the red marle, I should say that it had been derived from the *debris*, or waste, of extensive *basaltic* rocks, of which the

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present rocks of dun-stone are only the remains; and it adds probability to this opinion, that the red marl on the east side of the dun-stone is always filled with the fragments of the same kind of rock with that which is in its more immediate vicinity. For a knowledge of this fact, I am indebted to B. W. JOHNSON, Esq. *Surgeon*, Exeter. The red marl in some parts, contains beds of gypsum, and I should not think it improbable that rock salt, or brine-springs, may exist in some parts of Devon, occupied by this extensive *stratum*. I now return to speak of the *green sand* or *fox-mold*, which, though a member of the chalk formation, and immediately subjacent to chalk, is carried not only over the lias, but over the red marl, and forms *caps* on many of the highest hills, from *Black Down*, on the east, to *Hal Down*, six miles west of Exeter; it contains numerous silicious masses conglomerated, in which a kind of *opaque horn-stone* may be traced, passing into *flint*—the flint also may be traced passing into beautiful *calcedony*, and the calcedony again forming into *quartz crystals*. I am satisfied that the process is now going on, though we are at present un-

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acquainted with the causes by which it is effected. Numerous *marine shells*, *ammonites*, &c. occur in the green sand, proving incontestibly, that the highest hills in this part of Devonshire were once buried under the waves of the ocean, of which we have also a further proof in the heaps of rounded pebbles and gravel on the high ground between Sidmouth and Exeter. It would be foreign to the purport of my letter to describe the rocks below the red marle and dun-stone, but I may just observe, that the slate round Dartmoor is remarkably twisted and bent, and contains in some parts beds of *transition-limestone*; it is succeeded by *granite*, which forms the base and summit of Dartmoor, and extends from thence, with some interruption, to the Land's End in Cornwall.

I am, &c.

ROB. BAKEWELL."

" 13, Tavistock-Street, Bedford Square,
May 16, 1816."

Rides and Excursions.

Amongst the attractions of a watering-place, those which are contained in the country immediately about it, must always be reckoned as some of the most considerable. It will be the object of this small volume, to point out the principal *rides* which branch out from Sidmouth.

The vicinity of Sidmouth, as has been already observed, is peculiarly fitted for pleasant rambles, and short picturesque rides. There are also several places in its neighbourhood, which may serve as good objects for still longer excursions; and of some of these it will be desirable to give a somewhat detailed account.

Sidmouth is distant from Otterton four miles—from Bicton House, the seat of Lord Rolle, four and half—from Budleigh Salterton seven—from Exmouth twelve—from Dawlish sixteen—from Teignmouth nineteen—from Harpford through its beautiful wood four—from St. Mary Ottery seven—from Honiton ten—from Salcombe two—the Wild Glen, and village of Branscombe six—from Beer seven—from

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Seaton ten—from Coliton nine—from Lyme sixteen—from Axminster sixteen.

RIDE FROM SIDMOUTH, EASTWARD.

SALCOMBE,

or the *Salt Vale*, now called Salcombe Regis, is a small parish, east of Sidmouth, between two and three miles broad from west to east, that is, from Sidmouth town to a place in Branscombe, called Weston Mouth. The sea coast of it is thus described—"The cliff beyond Sidmouth is of a red stone, beyond which there is a narrow valley, at the upper end of which the church of Salcombe is situated. Beyond this valley rises another hill, having a high steep cliff towards the sea, the lower part of which is of red stone, and the upper part of freestone. Dipping towards the sea, on Salcombe Head, there is a quarry where stones are dug, as they are likewise in a narrow vale, which runs up between Salcombe Head and Dunscombe, the next headland eastward. The stone here lies near the surface in some places. The eastern side of this hill seems to have been much worked, and there is little doubt that the Sal-



Salisbury.

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combe stone, of which so great a quantity was used in building the cathedral of Exeter, was dug on the side of this hill; for there are very few quarries in any other part of the parish.

The principal sorts of freestone found in Devonshire, are dug in the adjoining parishes of Salcombe, Branscombe and Beer. That at Salcombe is a sandy grit, closely united, rather coarser than the Portland stone, and very hard. It works easily in the quarry. A proof how well it bears the weather, is to be seen at the cathedral of Exeter, the outside of which is all built of Salcombe stone, and though some of it has been erected six hundred years, it is very little, if at all, worn by the weather. The Branscombe stone is not supposed to bear the weather so well; and the freestone of Beer is of a much softer nature, and finer grit than that of Salcombe. When hewn out of the quarry, the freestone of Beer cuts as soft as the Bath stone, which it greatly resembles.

The principal village of this parish is *Seed*, a long straggling place, which has been already mentioned as lying by the river *Sid*, and containing Salcombe House, Hill's Cottage;

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Sid Cliff, and the house called Sid Abbey. The road from Sidmouth to Lyme passes through it and falls into the road from Exeter to Lyme, a little to the eastward of Sidford. The hill, which begins at this junction, is called Trow Hill, and on the top of it, towards the sea, lies *Trow*, a village of six or seven houses.

Knole or *Knowl*, a house charmingly situated in a small luxuriant valley on the north of Trow Hill, a good view of which is to be obtained from a gate at the top, has long been the property and residence of the Woolcotts.

Slade House, placed at the head of the beautiful and richly wooded vale of Dunscombe, commands a delightful view of the sea: it was built by the late William Leigh, Esq. and is now the residence of his son. The estate formerly belonged to the Michell's, of Salcombe; it would fully repay the visitor who admires magnificent rock scenery, to walk to the opening of Dunscombe valley—description would fall short of the richness and grandeur of this spot, and it must be viewed to be appreciated.

Salcombe church, a small edifice, but built upon a handsome model, is dedicated to St.

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Peter, whose image, with the insignia of the keys, appears on the outside of the chancel window. There is a room adjoining the church, called the chapel, which was, probably, a place of worship before the church was built.

In this church not many monumental inscriptions remain.

Over a pew in the middle aisle, opposite to the pulpit, is a mural monument, which was long since erected to the memory of the family of Michell, of Slade, in this parish. On this monument are the arms of *Michell*, impaling those of *Rowe*, and the inscription has been continued, and includes the date of the death of Captain Thomas Michell, the last male of the name, on the 8th of September, 1785, by his only nephew, the late Sir Isaac Heard, Garter Principal King of Arms.

This family of Michell, previously to their removal to Slade, resided for nearly two centuries in a mansion called "*Sea-side House*," within the parish of Branscombe, (now a farmhouse belonging to Lord Rolle,) its situation is salubrious, beautiful, and luxuriant, and near the sea. There is an interesting tradition in the

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family, which has been conveyed to us by a respectable authority, viz:—That when James, Duke of Monmouth, landed at Lyme, in June 1685, a great number of people followed him and his party; many from ignorance, many from curiosity, and doubtless some, perhaps many, from dislike to the government of King James II. After the defeat of the Duke at Sedgemore, the West of England was subjected to the most wanton ravages of military tyranny, under the orders of Feversham and his followers. The savage, Kirke, became the executioner of numbers, at and in the vicinity of Bridgewater; and the inhuman and infamous Jefferies followed, to complete, by the rigours of the law, the work of destruction. Hundreds of poor, ignorant, and undesigning “rebels” (as they were called) were condemned to death by terrified juries, and their quarters hung up in terrorem, in the different cross-ways. Pomfret, in his poem entitled “Cruelty and Lust,” has pathetically described the monster Kirke!

According to the tradition above mentioned, a number of these unfortunate persons informed against for having been seen among Monmouth's

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followers, yet wholly innocent as to any overt act of rebellion, or intention of committing any offensive acts, were sheltered in a cavern, or secret recess or recesses, on the sea-shore, near to Sea-side House, the mansion of the Michells, and supported with provisions by John Michell, Esq. the great-grandfather of Sir Isaac Heard, and his wife, during several weeks: or, at least, until the fury of the judge and executioners, and the rigour of the government under James, had begun to subside.

The above-mentioned John Michell, (who was a steady adherent to the royalist party), paid £140. as a composition for his estate, as appears by a list of the nobility, clergy, and gentry, who compounded for their estates in Devonshire, in 1655. The estate was afterwards wrested from him by the violence of the times, but repurchased—yet he met rather better treatment than many others;—for William Isack, of Gittisham, Esq. father of his wife Joan, was considered to be a strong adherent of the Cromwellian interest. This John Michell died in 1710, aged 80—his wife Joan, the sole daughter and heir of the said William Isack, in Septem-

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ber, 1730, aged 100—and Ursula Michell, his mother, whose family name was Drake, died in 1690, aged also 100. These three persons were buried in Branscombe Church; and their advanced ages may be adduced as some proof of the salubrity of the air in which they resided.

Risdon says, “Salcombe is a place numbered amongst those which King Canute bequeathed to the church of St. Peter, in Exeter, to expiate his father Swaine’s barbarous cruelty against the church in these parts.” A neat modern parsonage-house, situated near the church, at the foot of a beautiful little hill, has a peculiarly snug and comfortable appearance.

The village itself consists of about eight houses, including Coombe, a farm about two-thirds of the way between the church and the sea, and under delightful hanging woods, the residence of Mr. William Follett. Few places are more susceptible of improvement than this charming spot. Nature has done so much, that art has only to bestow a few embellishing touches: there is much to adorn, but nothing to create.

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“England’s Gazetteer,” published in 1751, under the article “Salcombe,” says, “In the “civil wars, here was a fort, called Charles “Fort, bravely defended against the Parliament “forces, by Sir Edmund Fortescue, though he “was at last forced to capitulate.”

BRANSCOMBE

lies east of Salcombe. This is a most romantic spot; the lofty cliffs which defend it from the sea, are, in many parts of it, paralleled at a small distance, by inland hills, which abound with orchards, hanging woods, and enclosures, covered with grass or grain. Three vallies, forming a sort of triangle, meet near the church, which stands nearly in the middle of the parish. Through each of these vallies rapid streams descend, which uniting in the bottom, flow on together to the ocean. Branscombe is separated from Beer by a small brook. “It coasteth the “sea,” says Risdon, “and is full of coombes “and vallies.”

In *Weston*, a village of four farm houses, all but one of which are in ruins, John Stuckey, Esq. some years ago erected a handsome man-

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sion: the old mansion and estate descended to him by inheritance; by him it was bequeathed to J. Bartlet Stuckey Bartlet, Esq.

Edge or *Egge*, in this parish, situated on an oval hill, was the dwelling-place of Richard Branscombe, in the reign of Edward III. It soon afterwards came to Sir John Wadham, the judge; who, though remarkable for fluency of speech, never talked but with gravity and discretion, and who tempered all his words and actions with spirit and judgment: his reputation as a lawyer was very high. To his original estates he made many additions, among which was the rich manor of Silverton. He died in the reign of Henry IV. and was most probably buried in the family vault in Branscombe church. The family of Wadham, who derived their name from the place of their origin and habitation, Wadham, near Southmolton, possessed *Edge* for *eight* descents, in a direct line, *five* of whom were knights. The last of the family, Nicholas Wadham, of Edge, married Dorothy, the daughter of Sir William Petre. Having no issue, his sister's children became his heirs; but as he had made a very large addition

Beer Harbour



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to his patrimony, he determined to lay it out in founding a college. To him, therefore, and Dorothy his wife, Oxford is indebted for the foundation and establishment of *Wadham College*.

Branscombe Church, dedicated to St. Winifred, supposed to have been a native of Devonshire, is larger than St. Peter's, at Salcombe. It contains some monuments: on that erected to the memory of John Wadham, "time," says Prince, "has rendered somewhat imperfect, "the following inscription:

"Here lieth intombed, the body of a virtuous and ancient gentlewoman, descended of the ancient house of the Plantagenets, sometime of Cornwall, namely, Joan, one of the daughters and heirs unto John Tregarthin, in the county of Cornwall, Esq. She was first married unto John Kellaway, Esq. who had by her much issue: after his death, she was married to John Wadham, of Merifield, in the county of Somerset, Esq. and by him had.....children. She lived a virtuous and godly life, and died in an honourable age, September.....in the year of Christ, 1591."

BEER

is a small place, lying between very steep hills, about a mile from *Seaton*. Many of the houses are built of free-stone, from the famous free-

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stone quarry. The *Cove* is well calculated for fishing, and from its situation, capable of being made one of the best fishing places in the kingdom. Great quantities of fish are caught and brought in here; but a much larger quantity is sent off, by contract, to the markets of Taunton and Bath, and some even to London.

Bovey, a very ancient seat in this manor, was the inheritance of the Walronds, of Bradfield, near Collumpton. It was the property of the late Lady Rolle, the only surviving daughter of William Walrond, Esq. and has been for several years past occupied by N. T. Still, Esq. A. B. the Resident Director at Mount Radford College, Exeter. It is a very old irregular building of free-stone. "The chapel here," says Risdon, "should seem to be founded by the Walronds, as their arms are cut in the moor-stone pillars, just at the bottom of the arches." "On visiting Bovey some years since," says a gentleman, "I was pleased with the venerable appearance of the house, and every object around it: it was then the residence of the widow of Mr. Walrond, just mentioned. There was something unusually striking in the antique mansion—the



Beer Head .

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old rookery behind it, the mossy pavement of the court, the raven in the porch, grey with years, and even the domestics hoary in service—they were all grown old together.”

The parish church is dedicated to St. Gregory. It is an ancient free-stone building, slated; the tower low and heavy, containing four bells. A handsome marble monument in the church bears the following inscription :

Sacred to the memory of William Walrond, Esq. who died at Bovey, in 1762, aged forty-five years; and of his first wife and infant son : also of Sarah Oke, his second wife, by whom he had issue, Sarah, Courtenay-William, and Judith-Maria. Of these, the last, and only surviving one, wife of John Rolle, Esq. M. P. for Devon, erected this monument in respect of the best of parents, and at the request of her mother, who departed this life February the 1st, 1787, aged 67.”

The vicarage-house, near the church, is an old building. In this parish is one dissenting chapel. On an eminence called *South Down*, is a most delightful and extensive prospect by sea, from Portland to the Start Point;—by land of a great part of the counties of Dorset, Somerset, and Devon. The chief employment of the inhabitants here, and at Seaton, is fishing, in

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which they are very expert. They are reckoned together, in both parishes, about fifteen hundred, in general strong and healthy. At the head of Beer, a pure spring rises out of the flint rock, and runs in a clear current through the town.

SEATON

is a small town, "lying full upon the sea," irregularly built, and consisting chiefly of one street. Its situation is low and marshy; its hedges are well wooded; its roads are narrow, but good, and give scope for very pleasant walks and rides; its beach, though not so fine as that at Sidmouth, affords an agreeable promenade.

This place is memorable for the landing of the Danish princes in the year 937; as also for the attempt of the inhabitants of Colyton to make a port there, which they gravely named *Colyton Haven*, and procured a collection under the great seal of England, for the levying of money to effect their purpose: "Of this work," says Risdon, "there remains no monument," nor is the spot known where it was intended to be.

Salcombe, Branscombe, Beer, and Seaton,



Seaton Bay

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are all on the coast, and lie to the *south* of the road from Sidmouth to Lyme: the only places to the *north* of it, which our plan leads us to point out, are Colyton and Shute.

COLYTON,

nine miles from Sidmouth, and about a mile to the north of Colyford, a small village, through which runs the turnpike road from Sidmouth to Lyme, is a small market town, situated on the western side of the Coly, where it falls into the Axe. It is a compact little place, and has a good market-house, a school-house, and a neat Presbyterian chapel. A large house, become by the exchange of lands and inheritance the property of Sir William de la Pole, is the most considerable building in the place. The situation of Colyton is most delightful, lying in a beautiful and fertile valley, through which the Coly and the Axe roll their winding streams to the sea. The views from many parts in the vicinity of the town are extremely beautiful, being finely varied by a mixture of hill, vale, river and sea. The enclosures are high edges, planted in general with elm-trees. The houses

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are, for the most part, built of free and flint stone, and very neatly thatched. Colyton is a good dairy parish, remarkable for its rich butter and its "skim-milk" cheeses. The town, in the time of William the Conqueror, belonged to the crown. Richard I. gave it, together with Whitford, to Thomas Basset, nephew of Walter Dunstanvil. King John granted an annual fair to continue eight days.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, is a strong stone edifice. The tower, which altogether looks handsome, consists apparently of one tower built upon another; the upper part is octagonal, raised on a large square structure that divides the church from the chancel. In this tower are six bells. On the southern side of the chancel is an enclosed burial-place, belonging to the De la Poles, highly ornamented with statutes and other monumental decorations. In an enclosed burial place, the property of Sir George Yonge's family, on the northern side of the chancel, there is a small font for holy water. Under a stone canopy, in a small northern aisle, is the image of a girl, apparently about five years old. Over

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her are the Royal and the Courtenay arms. She is said to have been a grand-daughter of Edward IV. by one of his daughters, who was married to a Courtenay of Colcombe. Her death being, as was reported, occasioned by a fish-bone sticking in her throat, she is vulgarly called "the little choke-a-bone."

A new chapel, belonging to Dissenters, of Calvinistic sentiments, has been lately erected at Colyton; the pulpit originally in the church, was formerly occupied by Dr. Manton, whose ponderous volume of sermons on the 119th psalm, is said to have had considerable influence in making the celebrated Lord Shaftesbury an unbeliever.

SHUTE, a small parish, contains the village of *Whitford*, on the western side of the Axe: it consists of about twenty houses. A great part of a very old seat called *Shute House*, was destroyed by its late owner, and a handsome modern habitation erected upon a larger scale. New Shute House, begun in 1787, is distant from the old mansion two furlongs, south east. It is a magnificent stone building, very pleasantly situated under Shute Hill, the residence

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of Sir William Templer Pole, Bart. The aspect is nearly south by east. It has a delightful view in front, with a very handsome lawn, and is about four miles from the sea. “The plan of the house is a square of about sixty-eight feet, with two handsome wings, connected with the body by corridors. The principal rooms are, a dining-parlour, forty feet by twenty three, fifteen in height; a drawing-room, thirty-six feet by twenty-three, of the same height; a large breakfast-parlour, and a handsome library. The entrance has a portico of the Doric order, with columns; and the vestibule, fifteen feet wide, leads to a very grand geometrical Portland-stone staircase.”

On Shute Hill is an ancient fire-beacon, in good preservation. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is a small stone building, and contains several monuments of the family of Sir John William de la Pole, and also some of the Templer family.

Soon after crossing the river from Colyford, on the right hand of the road, the traveller is presented with a view of *Stedcombe*, the delightful residence of — Hallet, Esq. The sweet se-

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clusion in which it stands, the bright verdure and rich foliage with which it is surrounded, and the air of substantial comfort which the house affords, furnish altogether a train of pleasurable sensations. "The hill of Stedcombe," says Polwhele, "gradually rising from the extensive level of the marshes to a conical height, suggests the idea of Mount Vesuvius. It is richly wooded, and a stream of water runs at its foot." Nothing is wanted to complete the harmony of the whole scene, but that the house should be white.

RIDE FROM SIDMOUTH, NORTHWARDS.

Between Sidmouth and Honiton, the only places are Sidford, Sidbury, and Gittisham.

SIDFORD.

is a small village, about two miles from Sidmouth, of the form of the letter L; at the east end of the longest part is a neat stone bridge of one arch, over the river Sid, which rises in this parish from five heads, and, after flowing through the hamlets of Sandcome, Harcombe, Levercombe, Lyncombe, and Buscombe, are united in one stream, and falls, after a beautiful

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serpentine course, into the sea at Sidmouth. In this village, tradition records a house in which Charles II. slept one night, after the narrow escape he had of being discovered by a blacksmith at Lyme, who was employed in shoeing the horse on which he rode: this was just before his escape to the Continent. Even loyalty will perhaps, read with a smile, that the good lady, who was at that time the mistress of the house, never afterwards entered the room in which the royal fugitive had slept, without making a low courtesy.

SIDBURY

is a large parish, sixteen miles in circumference, surrounded by and containing a multitude of hills. The rides and walks in it are uncommonly various and beautiful. The town is, upon the whole, a mean-looking place, where a great deal of lace is made. It has a stone bridge of one large arch, and two places of worship—a church and a dissenting meeting-house; both are situated near *Court Hall*, which is the old manor-house, and now the property of Robert Hunt, Esq. lord of the manor, by whom it has



Febury

SIDMOUTH.

been repaired and beautified, and divided into two dwellings, both of which, as Mr. Hunt resides at Woodhouse, are let. Woodhouse belonged, in the time of Richard II. to John de Woodhouse, whose ancestors were called De Bosco. A little way beyond Sidbury is *Cofford* or *Cotesford House*, a very pleasant modernized residence, the property and winter abode of the Dean of York. The church, dedicated to St. Giles, is a uniform structure: it had formerly an organ, and the tower contains six musical bells.

Under Castle Hill stands *Castle House*, occupied by Captain Wood, which commands a wonderfully fine and extensive prospect, and is itself a conspicuous object from Sidmouth beach, Peak Hill, and a number of other places.

The parsonage house, rebuilt by the Rev. Henry Fellowes in the cottage style, with a veranda, is delightfully situated on the side of a hill, to the south of the church.

Near Sidbury is *Sand*, where a large and venerable mansion, now occupied as a farm-house, is thus described by Risdon—"At Sand, the Huish family have a most dainty dwelling."

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Its situation is beautiful ; and many parts being in a state of ruin, and overgrown with ivy, have a truly picturesque effect.

Buscombe, a small hamlet in this parish, has an uncommonly lovely situation, embosomed by hills, and surrounded by rural beauty. It was thus described a few years ago, by an eye witness. “ I found my friend and his family embosomed in a vale, which, for the softness of its air, and the richness of its prospect, cannot be exceeded. Their habitation (which bears the name of White House) was neat and commodious ; their view on the left extended towards the sea—and on the right was terminated by a rising hill ; whilst the declivity of the opposite mountain, intersected by enclosures, and spotted with sheep, imparted a picturesque scene to the eye of the beholder. Near the door ran a rivulet, which by its murmurs soothed the ear, and by its transparency gratified imagination. At the distance of two fields above the house, the sea beautifully unfolded itself to view between the hills.”

The execrable old road ascending Pin hill, is now superseded by a new line, commencing

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about half a mile beyond Cotesford House. It is a fine broad and level road for about two miles gentle ascent; and having gained the summit of the hill, the scene must be witnessed to be conceived. Truly may it be said, looking down Sidmouth valley, Devonshire is indeed the garden of England!

The ride afterwards to Honiton lies over a fine elevated and extensive down, called Gittisham hill; and once more—the varied, luxuriant and far-stretching prospect which breaks upon the eye, at the Honiton end of the hill, “beggars” all description. On the west end of this down, and about two miles from Honiton, is the village of Gittisham.

GITTISHAM,

or, as it is commonly called, *Gitsam*, is an extremely neat, healthy, and picturesque place, delightfully situated; and though not large, consisting, as has been well observed, of many “trim cottages,” the inhabitants of which are in general “remarkably neat in their houses, as well as their persons.” A pleasant rivulet, rising from various springs on the adjacent hills,

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runs by Coombe House and through the village.

Coombe House has been, ever since 1615, the property and residence of the Putts: in that year it was purchased by Nicholas Putt, Esq. "who at that time possessed a large sum of money, as well as several estates and manors in Dorset, Somerset, and Cornwall." The house is a very ancient edifice, without any attempt at regularity; its situation is truly delightful, and it contains many pleasant and convenient rooms; its last improver was the present possessor, the Rev. Thomas Putt, who has made it a most elegant mansion. The parish church is a neat stone structure. Henry Beaumont, a gentleman distinguished in the records of charity, lies buried in the south aisle—a white marble monument is erected to his memory, where he appears kneeling before the altar. Behind him is Elizabeth his wife, in the same attitude: near her is the figure of an infant, in swaddling clothes; above are the arms of the family, and underneath a long epitaph, in English alexandrines, by which it appears that Mr. Beaumont died April 1, 1591.

Other magnificent monuments are to be

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seen in this church, particularly *two*; one to the memory of Sir Thomas Putt, Bart. who died June 25, 1686; and the other to the memory of John Fiennes, Esq. a young gentleman who died while he was upon a visit at Coombe House.

There is a tradition relative to a spot in this part of Devonshire, called *The Ring in the Mire*, to the following purport:—It is said, that Isabel de Fortibus, wife of the Earl of Albemarle, and daughter of Baldwin de Ripariis, the seventh Earl of Devon, determined a controversy between the parishes of Honiton, Farway, Sidbury, and Gittisham, relative to their bounds, in the following singular way:—Being a lady of great power and influence, she rode up to the plain where the parishes meet, and into a little miry place threw a ring, which she took off her finger, and said that place should be the bounds of the four parishes. Thus it has remained ever since, and the spot is still known by the name of *The Ring in the Mire*.

HONITON

is a considerable market and borough town,

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nearly three quarters of a mile long, lying on the great western road from London to Exeter. It consists principally of one broad street, running from east to west—and of another, not so long, from north to south. Some distance from the south end, and on the top of a hill, stands the church. A stream of very transparent water flows through the town, into which there are square dipping place before almost every door. Many of the houses in Honiton are good, and owing to *three* fires which it has suffered, the last of which happened in 1797, the greater part of it has an airy modern aspect. It is a great thoroughfare, and has several good inns, particularly the Dolphin and the Golden Lion. The Dolphin has been erected since the last fire. The Golden Lion has an antique appearance. The shops in Honiton are, many of them, very good, and well stocked. The thread lace, manufactured chiefly in the neighbouring villages, is sold here in great quantities: some exquisitely beautiful patterns, being both broad and rich, bear a high price.

We learn from Risdon, that Drogo, a

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Saxon, held this manor before the conquest ; but that the Conqueror gave the manor and town of Honiton to Robert Earl of Moreton, his maternal half brother, whom he made also Earl of Cornwall. It now belongs to Lord Courtenay.

At the east-end of the town, facing the road from Axminster, is a modern built house, called *Holy-shut Cot*. Its gardens adjoin the Taunton road, called *Holy-shut Lane*, from a spring of water of that name, about fifty yards down. The water of this spring is highly esteemed, as it is supposed to surpass all in its vicinity in purity.

The parish Church, dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, is very inconveniently situated on a hill, almost half a mile from the town. It is built of stone, and supposed to have been erected about 1482: it is in the form of a cross. The tower is square, and about sixty-three feet high, with five bells. It possesses a good organ, and a beautiful altar-piece of white stone. By the church-door is a tomb stone, in memory of Dr. Marwood, physician to Queen Elizabeth, who died September 18, 1617, aged 105; and on the pillars which support two of the aisles, is

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this inscription: "Pray for the souls of John Takell and Joan hys wyffe." These two persons are supposed to have built the said aisles.

The chapel of Allhallows, which stands nearly in the middle of the town, is supposed to have been the ancient parish church; the present building is a modern edifice. Honiton has also two dissenting chapels, one belonging to the Baptists, and the other to the Calvinistic Presbyterians.

The situation of this town is extremely pleasant, in a richly cultivated vale, upon a rising ground on the south side of the Otter.

Honiton is what is termed an "open borough;" it sends two members to parliament. Its election contests are often severe. The returning officer is the portreeve for the time being. The population is about 5000.

RIDE FROM SIDMOUTH, TOWARDS THE NORTH-WEST.

Exeter lies in this direction, fifteen miles from Sidmouth: in the usual road to it lie Harpford, Newton-Poppleford, and Clyst; either of which will make the boundary of a

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pleasant ride. St. Mary Ottery, whose beautiful church is well worthy inspection, lies three miles beyond Harpford, on the right hand of the Exeter road, going from Sidmouth.

HARPFORD WOOD.

A little more than three miles from Sidmouth, at a farm-house called *Boughwood*, or *Bowd*, is the entrance of Harpford Wood, which measures, within the hedges, three hundred and seventy acres. It is greatly and deservedly admired for the variety and beauty of its views, and for the richness of its sylvan scenery. It consists of ridges of hills, covered with fine young timber, principally of beech and oak. The roads through it are scarcely passable for carriages, but every where adapted for the convenience and pleasure of horse and foot visitants. As Lardram Bay is a favorite morning voyage, so is this delightful retreat an excursion by land, where numerous pic-nics are formed in the summer season, to the great advantage of the owners of hack horses and donkies.

At the end of Ottery hill, which terminates near the wood, are the remains of an ancient

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fire-beacon ; the prospect from this spot is a *fine panorama*.

At the west end of this wood lies the village of HARPFORD, or, as it is commonly pronounced, *Harford*. It is small but neat, and enjoys a most delightful situation. On the east it looks on the wood just described, and, on the west and south, it commands many of the windings of the Otter, as it flows through a rich and lovely valley towards the ocean.

A very old building, near the church, erected as appears by a stone in the front wall, in the year 1571, is called in the old parish rates, *Court Place*. The old county jail for felons, makes a part of the buildings ; some of which are still visible. The jail was removed from thence to Bicton by the family of the Rolles, and thence to Exeter, where it now remains.

The church, a small low building, with a tower and three bells, is dedicated to St. Gregory. The vicarage house is a convenient modern edifice, erected in 1768.

Leaving Harpford a little on the right hand, and crossing the Otter, over a stone bridge of five arches, the *Factory*, erected some years

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ago, for spinning of wool, strikes the eye as a very neat building. It stands on the left hand of the road, on the banks of the river, and is an ornamental feature in the beautiful scenery with which it is accompanied.

NEWTON POPPLEFORD

is a long, mean-looking place, containing two public houses, dignified with the name of inns. Tradition says it was anciently a borough, though the charter has been long lost. It still retains its portreeve. About the middle of the village is a chapel, lately repaired, dedicated to St. Luke. It was formerly a chantry, founded in the fourth year of Edward III. by Hugh de Courtenay, Earl of Devon. Tradition says it was built as an atonement for some crime. The commissioners in 1648, under the Commonwealth, remark—"Newton Poppleford, fit to be united to Harpford. Service every fifth Sunday at Newton." There is a large fair for cheese and cattle held here in October.

CLYST ST. MARY,

nearly twelve miles from Sidmouth, has nothing

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to distinguish it but a fine situation; it lies upon the river Grindle, which washes the western end of it. The length of the bridge marks the extent to which this stream sometimes inundates the meadows on each side.

OTTERY ST. MARY,

seven miles from Sidmouth, is the principal place to which the Otter, on which it stands, communicates its name: it is a market town, and though built chiefly on a gentle hill, lies low with respect to the country through which it is approached. Dr. Maton, speaking of his ride to it from Sidmouth, says—"Taking leave of the coast for the present, we proceeded towards Exeter, through Ottery. The red oxyde of iron continued to tinge the soil the whole way, and added to the richness of the surrounding scenery; and the romantic winding of the river and the road, exhibited a novel and agreeable effect. We descended into Ottery under the umbrage of widely spreading trees, the branches of which screened the town from our view until we arrived close to it; but the venerable towers of the church sometimes peeped through the foliage."

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A clear stream runs through the town, and there are many convenient dipping-places from which the water may be easily taken: in the middle of the town is a spring, which sparkles with all the transparency of the Bristol waters, and is said to possess their qualities, but it has not their warmth. Another spring, rising near a house called Paradise, has been used medically as a solvent for the stone, and it was thought, by one gentleman, with some success.

The country about Ottery has all the features and beauties of the Devonshire landscape: the orchards and gardens, the verdure of the fields and the richness of the hedge rows, at a little distance, form, from the fine terrace in the church-yard, a very interesting feature.

The houses in Ottery are strikingly various: in Mill-Street is an old house, of a monasterial air, which was once the residence of the celebrated Sir Walter Raleigh. Cromwell's *Convention-room* is the largest of the parlours in one of the old collegiate houses, just by the church-yard.

These, and other edifices more or less ancient, are contrasted with the new brick houses

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erected after the fire, and the factory, a new structure of considerable size. Of the fact connected with Cromwell's convention-room, Echard gives the following account;—"About the time that Exeter was besieged, Cromwell came to Ottery, to raise men and money from the town and neighbourhood. For this purpose he held a convention there, in a parlour now standing westward of the church. The people of Ottery refused to comply with his request, or rather requisition. Cromwell was so much irritated at their refusal, that he ordered his men to destroy all the ornaments of the church. The organ in the body of the church, and the organ in the chapel (now the library), were both dashed to pieces: and several fine monumental figures decapitated."

The church was dedicated and given to St. Mary in Roan by Edward the Confessor. "This church," says Risdon, "is fair according to the structure of those times; whereof the windows, little and low, are so bedecked with the armories of divers benefactors, more especially of the founders, that instead of *lux fuit*, it may be verified, that they are umbrated thereby."

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The two towers, on the north and south sides are, “each of them, it is said, eighty feet high, about half the height of those of Exeter cathedral, from which they were copied.” By the style of the windows, it is supposed that these towers were erected about the time of Henry III.

This church has now a very handsome altar-piece; over which is inscribed *Jacobus Rex*, 1688. On the sides of the pulpit, which is of cedar, are admirably carved, (by William Culne, a common carpenter born in Ottery), the four Evangelists. In the body of the church, between two pillars, under a pyramidal arch, is the stone statue of a warrior, armed cap-a-pié, with a lion at his feet—and opposite, between two pillars, and arched in the same manner, is laid a female figure. Heraldic ornaments, now defaced by time, were once about these figures. There is no inscription, and tradition bestows upon them the names of William Grandison, father of the bishop, and Sibyl his wife. In the chancel are several monumental inscriptions, in memory of the now decayed Haydon family, and others. The Calvinistic

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Dissenters have a chapel, and a considerable congregation in Ottery.

RIDE FROM SIDMOUTH, WESTWARD, OVER PEAK HILL.

To the westward of Sidmouth, between that and Exmouth, lie the following places, affording boundaries for longer or shorter excursions;—*Otterton, Bicton, Woodbury, Budleigh Salterton*, and *Littleham*. Several of these places can be seen from Peak Hill, particularly Otterton and Bicton.

OTTERTON.

that is, *a town upon the Otter*, is now a poor place, consisting principally of one street. The male inhabitants of it are almost entirely farmers and their labourers, with a few necessary mechanics: the females are almost wholly employed in making a coarse kind of thread lace. The situation of the parish is both pleasant and healthy. The cliffs bordering on the sea are very high, and nearly perpendicular: the air is dry and salubrious. A stone bridge crosses the river; the roads are very narrow, the en-

SIDMOUTH.

closures are numerous, and the orchards and hedges very flourishing. Camden says, "The name of the river is derived from the plenty of *otters* or water-dogs." Modern observation does not confirm this account, whatever it might have been formerly, the *Otter* is now merely a *trout stream*.

The manor of Otterton is a very noble one. From the conquest to the dissolution of abbies, it continued in the hands of religious men. William the Conqueror gave it to *St. Michael De Monte*, in Normandy. Upon the surrender, Richard Duke, a clerk of the augmentation-court, procured it, and built a noble house upon an ascent a little way from the river, which turns the mills below. The grant, dated in 1540, gives to Richard Duke the manors of Otterton and East Budleigh, with all their rights and privileges, and royalties, and the patronage of the vicarages of Otterton, Budleigh and Harpford, for the sum of £1727. 4s. 2d.

In 1775 the Duke estate, in default of male heirs, descended to four sisters, now all dead. Soon after the estate was advertised for sale. Lord Rolle was the purchaser, and is the present

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possessor of it: he has taken down almost the whole of the house. Close to its remains stands the church, dedicated to St. Michael, a stone building, with a slated roof; within, it is extremely neat, being uniformly pewed with the best wainscot, at the recommendation of Mr. John Duke, about fifty years ago. The inhabitants of Otterton house were for several ages, much inclined to the dissenting cause.

Having put up your horse at the public-house in Otterton, it will afford a rich treat to the admirer of landscape scenery, to enter Otterton Park, and follow the path on the bank of the Otter—approaching the sea, cross a wooden bridge, and return the opposite side of the river, unless it is found desirable to extend the ramble. In this case proceed towards the sea-shore, and you will perceive about half a mile to the westward, the retired and neat little watering place,

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON.

The Promenade, though short, is kept in excellent order, and a row of particularly neat lodging houses ornament its side; there are

The Conservatory.



Bickon Chapel.



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many beautiful pebbles upon this beach, remarkable for a flat oval shape, they decrease in size as they approach the water's edge—many are perfectly transparent.

At Otterton a new bridge is completed, crossing which, at a little distance through the meadows on the right hand, lies

BICTON,

the property and residence of Lord Rolle, who has lately completed a noble mansion, which may be seen from Peak Hill. It stands in a beautiful park, well stocked with deer, and distinguished for its noble and venerable groves of beech and oak. It is remarkable, that the tenure of Bicton is still to keep the jail of the county. "This," it has been remarked, "is perfectly right: the possessor of the manor of Bicton has been always obliged (from the time of Henry I.) *to find a county jail.*"

The church of Bicton, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is thus beautifully described by the historian of Devonshire. "It is a small, but neat building. Its situation is most romantic. Placed in silence and solitude, it

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stands embowered amidst the fine deep foliage of forest trees, that surround it at a little distance, and interweave their branches, as if to secure it from every prying eye. Whilst we approach the church, we feel sensations of awe, from its *holy* seclusion: but they are mixed with ideas of fairy scenery. The spot is, in itself, most enchanting. Thus encircled by such a beautiful screen of woods—thus insulated, and withdrawn from the world, we fancy ourselves amidst the groves of Rousseau's Ermenonville, and recalling his fine painting to memory, can recognize, almost, its prototype in the objects around us."

The present parsonage house, a convenient brick mansion, was built about forty years ago: it stands on a rising ground, about a quarter of a mile from the church, and in full view of the public road.

Bicton house contains a collection of select pictures.

The ride may be extended by enjoying the delightful views upon Woodbury Common; this high ground commands most extensive prospects, and the bracing air, mixed with the

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aromatic odour of the wild thyme and heath, cannot fail to exhilarate the spirits of the invalid.

BUDLEIGH.

There are two or three villages of this name, at no great distance from each other. The church, and a dissenting chapel, stand in the principal one, denominated East Budleigh, through which lies the road from Sidmouth to Salterton, and to Exmouth. Sir W. Pole says "Budleigh is a small market-town." The church is dedicated to All Saints; it is a handsome stone edifice, with a square tower eighty feet high; it has five bells and a clock. There are several coats of arms in the windows, and on the facing of the old seats. On one seat is a representation of Bishop Blaze. In the churchyard was a stone with this inscription, but without a date:—

"Orate pro anima Radulphi Node."

Pray for the soul of Radulphus Node.

Tradition says this was the sepulchre of a man who broke his neck in attempting to fly

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from the church tower with artificial wings; the inscription, it seems, is now obliterated.

TIDWELL HOUSE

is a large, square, and remarkably substantial brick building, with a multitude of windows, at a small distance from the road to Exmouth. It had formerly lords so named. *Joan*, the daughter of the last of that line, was the wife of *John de St. Clere*. Gabriel St. Clere, one of his descendants, after he had wasted his estate by excessive hospitality, began to take his house to pieces, and sell the materials; affirming, that "neither he nor his posterity could prosper, as long as one stone stood upon another, of a house where so many sins had been committed." One of this family, we are told, was distinguished by the following act of uncommon loyalty: when Henry II. was besieging the castle of Bridgnorth, in the possession of Hugh de Mortimer, Hubert de St. Clere, perceiving the king aimed at from the castle walls, stepped in before his sovereign, received the arrow into his own body, and expired. The king not only interred the deceased

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with all military honours, but took his young and only daughter under his protection; and when she was marriageable, gave her to William de Longville, a man of noble birth, and in high favor with the king. With her, the inheritance descended from her father, with large additions; but on these terms—"that to perpetuate the memory of the faithful Hubert, Longville should bear both the name and surname of her father, and be called Hubert de St. Clere." The present house was built by Counsellor Walrond, about seventy years ago, and was, in right of his wife, the property of the late John Edye, Esq. of Pinney, near Lyme. Of the springs at Tidwell, Risdon gives the following account: "The ponds at Tidwell, maintained by springs, continually whelm and boil up, not unlike that wonderful well in Derbyshire, which ebbeth and floweth by just tides. These springs are so warm, that whilst all the waters around them are frozen, they are free from ice in the coldest weather; when abundance of wild fowl flock hither, to the no little pleasure and profit of the place."

Hays, situated on the western side of the

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parish of East Budleigh, is celebrated as the birth-place of the famous Sir Walter Raleigh.

The general history of this celebrated man is too well known to be here recapitulated : the peculiar severity, not to say injustice, of the sentence by which he was at last executed, gives him a claim to the compassion of all succeeding ages, and serves to immortalize a name which both by the pen and the sword, has become dear to his country.

“ The Aubrey Papers,” published in 1813, contain the following account :—

“ Sir Walter Raleigh was a tall, handsome, bold man—he had a most remarkable aspect, an exceeding high forehead, long faced, and sour eye-lidded, a kind of a pig-eye. He was the first that brought tobacco to England and into fashion. In Malmsbury Hundred, in North Wiltshire, it came first into fashion by Sir Walter Long. They had first silver pipes. Common people used a walnut-shell and a straw. I have heard my grandfather Lyte say, that one pipe was handed from man to man round the table. Sir Walter Raleigh, standing in a stand at Sir Robert Poyntz’s park at Acton,

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took a pipe of tobacco, which made the ladies quit it till he had done. For a long time it was scandalous for a divine to take tobacco. I have heard some of our old yeomen neighbours say, that when they went to Malmsbury or Chippenham market, they culled out their biggest shillings to lay in the scales against the tobacco. I have heard my cousin Whitney say, that he saw Sir Walter in the tower: he had a velvet cap, laced, a rich gown, and trunk hose.

“ In his speech on the scaffold, he spake not one word of Christ, but of the great and incomprehensible God, with much zeal and adoration, so that my cousin Whitney concluded he was an *α-christ*, not an *atheist*.

“ Old Sir Thomas Mallett, one of the justices of the king's bench in the time of Charles I. and II. knew Sir Walter, and I have heard him say, that notwithstanding his so great mastership in style, and his conversation with the learnedst, and politest persons, yet he spake broad Devonshire to his dying day. His voice was small.”

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Sir W. Raleigh's letter to Mr. Duke, in
Devon, writ with his own hand.

" Mr. Duke,

" I wrote to Mr. Prideaux to move you
for the purchase of *Hays*, a farm sometime in
my father's possession. I will most willingly
give whatsoever in your conscience you shall
deem it worth, and if at any time you shall have
occasion to use me, you shall find me a thankful
friend to you and yours. I am resolved, if I
cannot entreat you, to build at Colliton; but
for the natural disposition I have to that place,
being born in that house, I had rather seat
myself there than any where else. I take my
leave, readie to countervaile all your courtesies
to the utter of my power.

" Your very willing friend,

" In all that I shall be able,

" WALTER RALEIGH."

" *Court, July 26, 1584.*"

From Tidwell House a pleasant ride takes
you to

LITTLEHAM,

a small village, two miles from Exmouth, and
in the parish of which Exmouth lies. Its church

Exmouth, from the Hulme Road.



SIDMOUTH.

is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and lies under a hill called Westdown. "Here, in an aisle belonging to the Drake family," says Prince, "is this epitaph, on the tomb of Robert Drake, who was noticed for his benefactions in time of Charles I.

"Preachers and poor can say my death
Was ended in a lively faith;
The yearly gifts that I then gave
Till time be ended they must have."

This Robert Drake, born at *Sprathays*, in the parish of Littleham, was the third son of Gilbert Drake, of that place, a younger branch of the family of Ash. After having studied the law at the inner temple, he married, and settled at *Daleditch*, in East Budleigh. He died in 1628.

EXMOUTH.

is the oldest watering-place in Devonshire. Prince calls it "a small hamlet." About a century ago, one of the judges of the circuit in a very infirm state of health, received so much benefit from bathing there, that it was brought into repute. It is ten miles south from Exeter, and twelve from Sidmouth. It is

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sheltered from the north-east and the south-east winds by some hills, which supply it with excellent water. It is now a considerable place, and can boast a great many new and commodious houses.

At Exmouth, Risdon tells us, was born Sir Richard Whitebourne, Knt. whose adventurous voyages in discovering the commodities of Newfoundland, and endeavours for the plantations and profitable fishings there, have merited the general commendation of his country, and received honor of the king. From hence the Earl of March, afterwards Edward IV. accompanied with the Earls of Sarum and Warwick, set sail for Calais, anno 1459, by the assistance of John Dynham, Esq. afterwards Lord Treasurer of England.

LYMPSTONE,

ten miles from Sidmouth, the road from which runs through Otterton, and by Bicton Park, is delightfully situated on the east side of the Exe. It is very irregularly built; good houses and mean cottages, are in the middle of it, rather closely huddled together. At the end of the

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village is the church, which is seen to advantage, as it stands at a little distance from the road. Directly opposite the road are some fine meadows, through which lies a pleasant rural walk to the hamlet of Sowdon ; this path winds delightfully by the side of willows, or amidst clumps of lofty elms, to a charmingly neat and rural spot, where are some decent lodgings, with gardens and orchards about them. Fishing and lace-making are the employments of the inhabitants of this place.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary. It is rather low in proportion to the tower, which contains five musical bells. On the glass of a window, in the north aisle, St. George is represented with this inscription :

————the holy Knight,
Who slew the dragon by his might.

This church is well seated, and has a handsome altar-piece. A neat Dissenting chapel stands just within Woodbury parish ; the attendants are chiefly from Lympstone, where the minister resides.

WOODBURY,

so called from its *ancient woodlands*, is a parish

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with eight villages, and still abounding with oak, elm, and ash. Woodbury Castle, which crowns the extensive common of that name, gives a noble effect to the prospect.

Church Village is nearly in the centre of the parish. The church, which was new built, and dedicated to St. Swithin, in 1409, is an edifice of durable stone, with a slated roof, and is twenty feet high. The tower which is eighty feet, is square, has two strong buttresses at each corner, and on the top sixteen battlements, and a weathercock. It contains six deep-toned musical bells. In the church is one monument, without an inscription, erected in memory of the present Sir Wilmot Prideaux's ancestors, who lived at *Nutwell*, the seat of Sir Francis Drake, so distinguished in the naval records of England.

TOPSHAM

consists chiefly of one street, about half a mile long, one part of which is considerably wider than the other. Many good houses are scattered through the town, but upon the whole it has but a mean appearance. The southern end is by far the pleasantest part; it is called the

Powderham Castle.



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Strand, and is inhabited mostly by people out of trade. It commands a fine view of the river and the opposite bank. A little further up is the Quay, which is large, and now belongs to the corporation of Exeter. The road from Topsham to Exeter is very good, and rendered extremely pleasant by several detached genteel houses, and ornamented gardens and lawns on each side.

The church has an antique appearance ; it is a large but tasteless building, dedicated to St. Margaret.

LYME,

sixteen miles from Sidmouth, is a small sea-port town in Dorsetshire : it has long been known as a watering-place. It is situated close to the sea, at the mouth of a narrow valley, the sides of which are high and steep hills : it is an old place as the appearance of many of the houses sufficiently proves. The public room for the company is lofty and spacious, and looks full upon the bay on which the town stands. A public walk is constructed near the sea, but the shore does not admit of its at all rivalling the beach at Sidmouth ; and when the tide is out, the quantity

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of mud which is left behind is grateful neither to the optic or olfactory nerves.

The peculiarity of Lyme is the *Pier*, which forms its port, and which is denominated the *Cobb*. Within this solid enclosure of masonry, vessels lie in perfect security, but the entrance is narrow, and in stormy weather difficult to hit. The walk upon it, however, which is broad, and faced with durable stone, is, at all times, when dry, and the wind not too boisterous, extremely pleasant.

The liberties of a haven and borough were granted to Lyme by Edward I. and from this period it grew so prosperous, that in the reign of Edward III. it furnished four ships and sixty-two mariners, for the siege of Calais. The corporation consists of a mayor, recorder, town-clerk, and fifteen capital burgesses. It has sent representatives to parliament ever since the twenty-third of Edward I.

The siege of Lyme, during the civil wars, was one of the most remarkable which took place during that calamitous period.

Captain Thomas Coram, the patron and contriver of the Foundling Hospital, was born

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at Lyme in 1668 : in his benevolent attention to others, this singularly humane and memorable man so entirely forgot himself, that in his old age he was supported by a pension of somewhat more than a hundred pounds a year, raised for him at the solicitation of Sir Sampson Gideon and Dr. Brocklesby. Upon Dr. Brocklesby's applying to him, to know whether a subscription being opened for his benefit would not offend him? he received this noble answer : " I have not wasted the little wealth of which I was formerly possessed in self-indulgence, or vain expences, and am not ashamed to confess, that at this my old age I am poor." He died at his lodgings near Leicester Square, March 29, 1751, eighty-three years old. " The memory of the *good* shall be blessed."

Between Lyme and Colyton, about two miles from the former place, lies *Pinney*, an estate which belonged to the late John Edye, Esq. who resided upon it—the grounds, especially upon the coast, are exceedingly romantic and picturesque.

AXMINSTER,

nine miles from Honiton, and five from Colyton,

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is a healthy clean town, in the road from Exeter to London: it lies on a little hill by the river Axe, "whence" says Risdon, "it was so called without any addition, till King Athelstan's time. But when at this place a *minster* was erected, wherein seven priests should pray for the souls of those that were slain, this place got that adjunct which it now holdeth." It anciently belonged to the kings of England. From the heights in its neighbourhood the sea is to be discovered. "From the hills about Stockland," says Dr. Stukely, "I first had sight of the Southern Ocean, a most solemn view, a boundless extent of water, thrown into a mighty horizontal curve."

The church, some parts of which have the appearance of great antiquity, has a very heavy appearance, particularly on the inside,—it is dedicated to St. Mary. There is a school-house close by the church, the windows of which are rounded in the Saxon style. The walk in the church-yard is pleasant, between rows of flourishing lime-trees. The Dissenters have a well attended chapel in this town.

A durable sort of carpets, which somewhat resemble tapestry, and are called Axminster

SIDMOUTH.

carpets, have long been manufactured here, and are generally esteemed for beauty and quality.

The following Lines on SEA BATHING, may not unappropriately close this small volume.

FREED from the couch of sickness, grief, and pain,
Hither the fainting sufferer comes to lave,
In the cool freshness of the bracing wave,
His languid limbs: if so, he may regain
Of rosy health! and oh! if aught can save
From the dark precincts of the gloomy grave,
SIDMOUTH! 'tis thee, and all thy sylvan reign.

GENERAL INFORMATION.



THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

DR. A. HUTCHINSON, of the University of Cambridge, (late of Exeter), is the Resident Physician ; and there are many respectable practitioners, as Surgeons and Apothecaries.

POST OFFICE.

The London Mail arrives at Sidmouth every afternoon about four o'clock, which conveys the letters from London put in the previous evening ; and it leaves Sidmouth every morning about ten o'clock. All letters for the London Mail must be in the office by a quarter past nine, after which time a penny is charged upon each letter.

Letters not sent away by Friday morning's Mail, cannot arrive in Town till the Monday

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following. The Blank Post day from London is Monday.

The Exeter and Western Mail arrives a little before ten in the morning. It leaves Sidmouth with letters for the west at four in the afternoon. The office closes at three o'clock, after which time a penny is paid with each letter.

Post Master—Mr. GEORGE TURNER.

COACHES.

Two Coaches leave Sidmouth for Exeter every morning, precisely at eight o'clock, (Sundays excepted). One starts from the London Inn, to Clench's New London Inn, Exeter: and the other from the York Hotel, to the Royal Clarence Hotel, in the Cathedral Yard; both Coaches leave Exeter at four o'clock precisely.

A Bath Coach is expected to run the alternate days in the week.

CARRIERS.

To EXETER—Anthony Hooke, and — Wench, (late Cockram) *Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.*

GENERAL INFORMATION.

To HONITON—S. Frost, *Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.*

To LYME—Anthony Hooke—days uncertain.

To EXMOUTH—Robert Carter, *Mondays.*

PLEASURE BOATS ARE CHARGED AS UNDER.

Two hours' sail - - - - - 0 5 0

To Dawlish, Teignmouth, or Lyme 1 5 0

To Exmouth or Seaton - - - - 1 1 0

May be hired of BARTLETS—SAUNDERS—HEFFERS—

H. CONANT—RADFORD—SILLEY—BOULTS, &c.

SADDLE HORSES

may be hired of the undermentioned, most of whom have Cars or Flies at reasonable charges,
George Gullock—Puddicomb & Co.—Call—B. Butter—Wakeham.

SEDAN, BATH CHAIRS, AND HAND FLIES,

MAY BE HIRED OF

Puddicombe & Co.—Bartlet—Silley—Carslake & Co. &c.

BATHING MACHINES FOR GENTLEMEN,

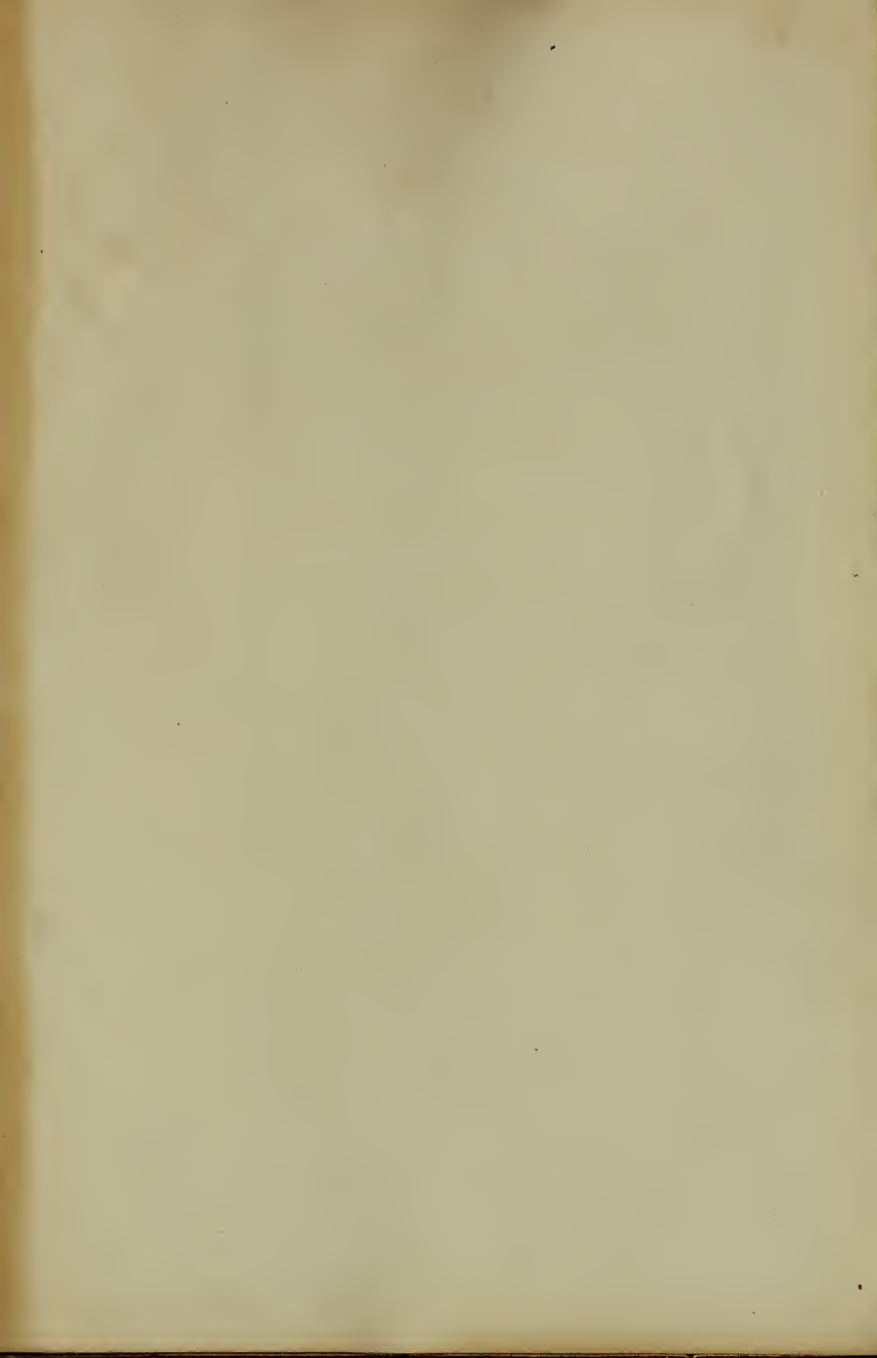
Marmaduke Taylor, and Thomas Heffer.

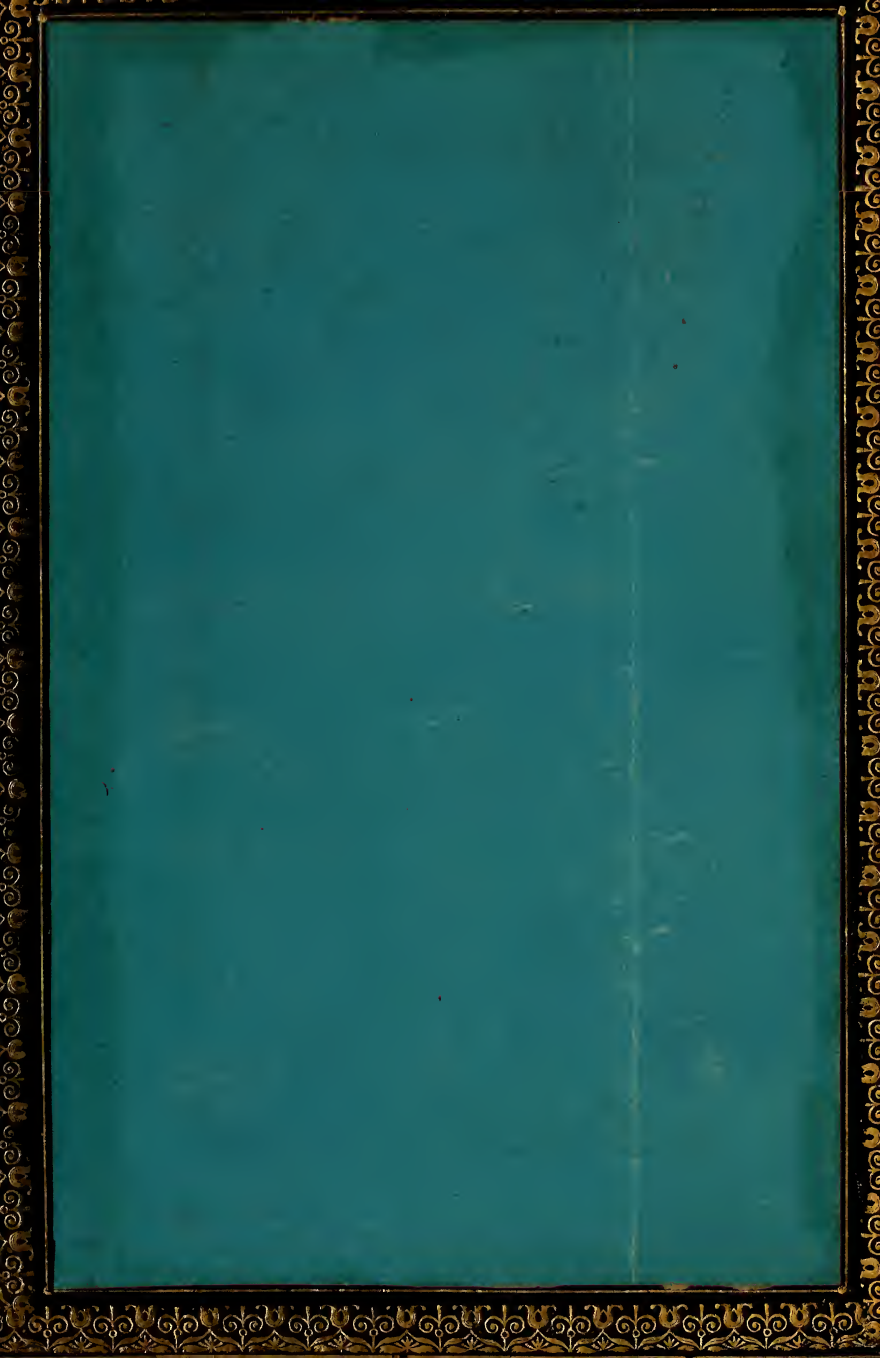
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Windsor—Mutters—Barrett & Co.

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